Entertainment / A28

Inquirer exclusive: Interview with Penelope Cruz

World / A10

Syria vows full withdrawal by April 30

Lifestyle / C2

Mikee sets Philippine show jumping record

Business / B1

Globe says price war unsustainable

Tanong ng Bayan / A16

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, April 5, 2005 ★★★ 44 pages 4 sections Vol. 20 No. 116 P18

A royal wedding and a papal funeral

TULOY PA RIN ANG LIGAYA!

LONDON—Britain's Prince Charles has postponed his marriage to longtime lover Camilla Parker Bowles from Friday to Saturday so that he can attend the funeral of Pope John Paul in Rome.

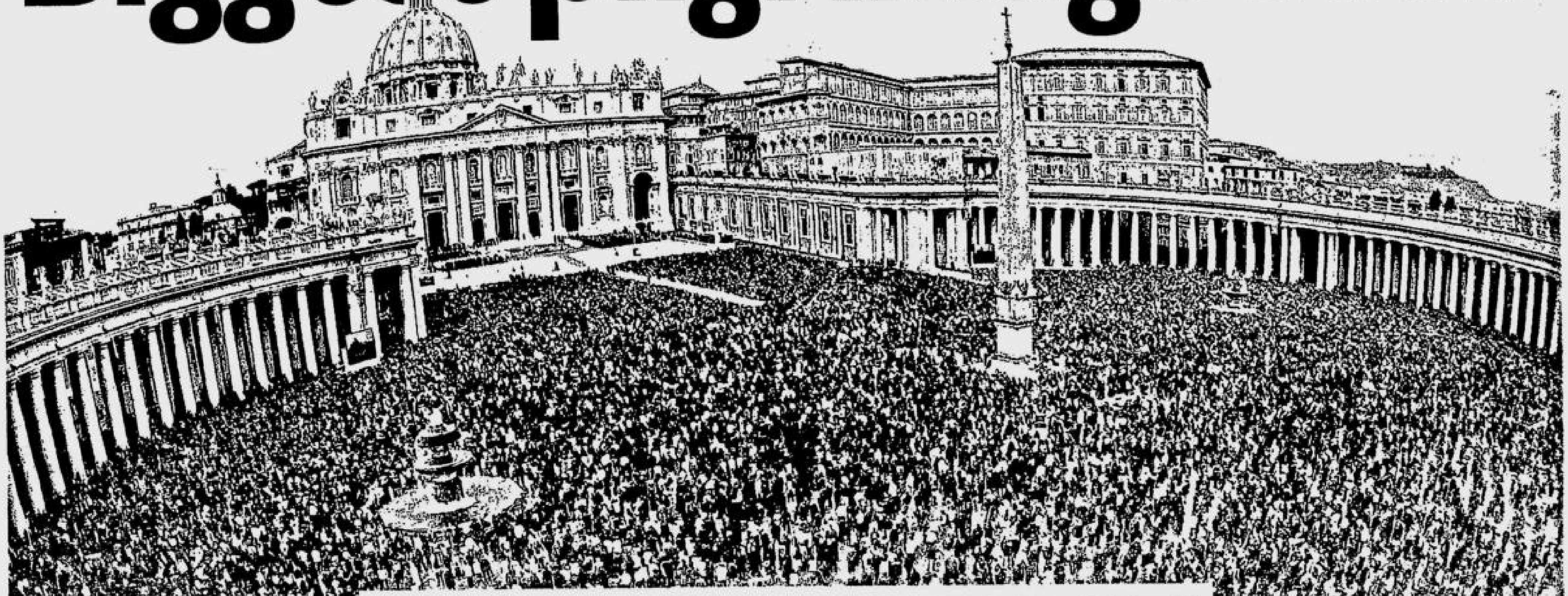
The heir to the British throne cut short his skiing

A ROYAL/ A4

More stories on the Pope:

- **Spanish cardinal takes charge as 'camerlengo'** NEWS / A18
- **Milan cardinal bookies' favorite** NEWS / A4
- **How new popes choose their names** WORLD / A10

Biggest pilgrimage seen



THEY came, they saw, they condoled. Roman Catholics, in their multitude, gather at St. Peter's Square for a solemn Mass to pay their respect to Pope John Paul II. REUTERS

THE PONTIFF'S body lies in state at the Clementina Hall of the Vatican and will be displayed to mourners before the altar at the St. Peter's Basilica. REUTERS

Bush, 200 other world leaders to join 2M mourners

SWISS Guards and the police in Rome face a security nightmare as up to two million people, including 200 world leaders and religious chiefs, are expected to attend the funeral of Pope John Paul II Friday.

The Pope was not only the spiritual leader of 1.1 billion Catholics but also the head of the State of the Vatican City, the world's smallest state.

President George W. Bush will lead the US delegation, the White House said.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said First Lady Laura Bush would accompany the president and they could leave for Rome as early as Wednesday.

No US president has ever attended a Pope's funeral.

The Pope's funeral will be held Friday morning, and his remains will be interred in the grotto of St. Peter's Basilica, where popes throughout the ages have been laid to rest, the Vatican said.

The funeral was expected to draw the greatest tide of pilgrims and heads of state to the Vatican in its history, pulled by the charisma of John Paul, who took his message to more nations than any other pope in two millennia.

In line with tradition, the funeral has to take place between four and six days after the Pope's death.

The Polish Embassy in Rome said Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski and Lech Walesa, founder of the Solidarity trade union movement, would also attend.

Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo is among the heads of state from Asia, who will attend the funeral. *(See related story this page.)*

Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisanu mobilized 6,430 security forces and said the foreign ministry's "crisis unit" would help bolster protection for visiting dignitaries.

Italy's Ansa news agency reported that

BIGGEST/ A6

Special PAL flight for GMA to Rome

ON A SPECIAL Philippine Airlines (PAL) flight, President Macapagal-Arroyo is flying to the Vatican at 8 tonight to represent Asia's biggest Roman Catholic nation in the funeral of Pope John Paul II.

The flight is considered special because PAL has not been flying to Europe since 1998.

The President, who is celebrating her 58th birthday today, said she would be accompanied by Gina de Venecia (wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia), Ambassador to the Vatican Leonida Vera, Social Security System chair Thelmo Cunanan and his wife, INQUIRER columnist Belinda Olivarez-Cunanan.

But the INQUIRER learned that as of yesterday, some 100 people, including businessmen, were already part of the President's party.

The President and her party would have a nonstop flight from Manila to Rome on an Airbus 340, which can seat more than 200 people.

Ms Arroyo said the Philippines, home to more than 68 million Catholics, held a significant place in the Pope's heart.

"In my visits to the Pope even before I became president, what always impressed me was he knew what was happening in the Philip-

SPECIAL/ A6

Creator of saints strong candidate for sainthood, too

HE CREATED more saints than all of his predecessors put together, and now the man dubbed "John Paul the Great" the day after his death may be on the path to sainthood himself.

"He's a strong candidate, there's no doubt," said Patrick Agnew, a Vatican watcher for nearly two decades.

For many in the throngs of pilgrims attending Mass in his memory in St. Peter's Square on Sunday, the late Pope already is a saint.

"The ground he walked on is sanctified," said Julia Isaben, a pilgrim from Guatemala. "Today, it is as if it is covered in flowers," she added.

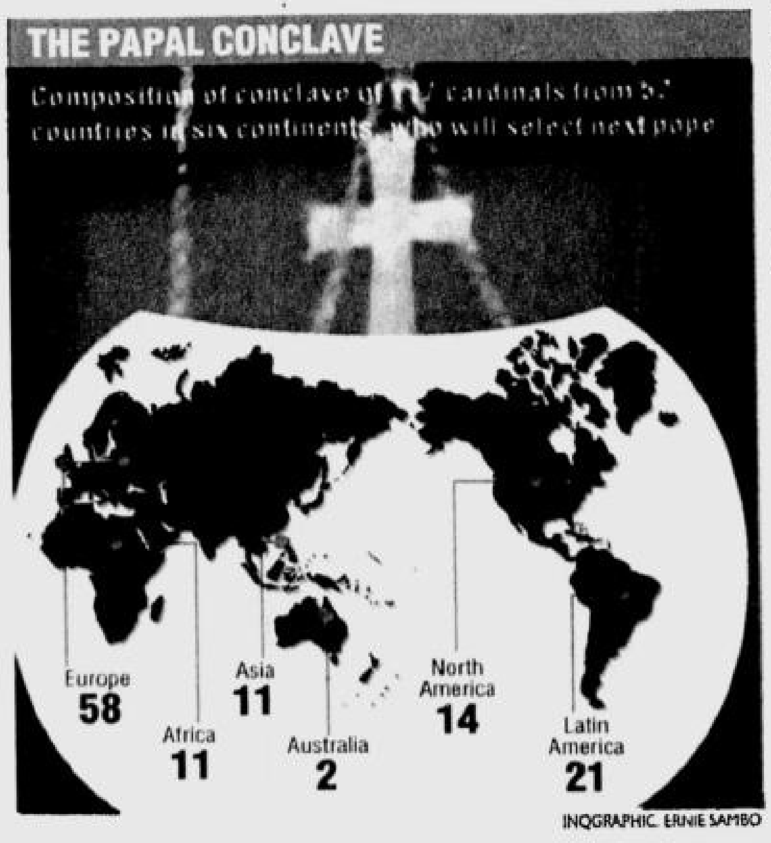
"He was a great man, really a saint," said Vidiana Crisaculli, who brought her two children to St. Peter's Square for Sunday's Mass

CREATOR/ A6

No clear front-runner in papal race

THE PAPAL CONCLAVE

Composition of conclave of [illegible] cardinals from [illegible] countries in six continents who will select next pope



INQGRAPHIC: ERNIE SAMBO

WHEN the 117 Roman Catholic cardinals who are eligible to elect a successor to Pope John Paul II gather in the Sistine Chapel to cast their ballots, the worldwide suspense about the outcome will be shared even by the cardinals in the conclave.

There is no clear front-runner, many church experts agree. So the cardinals will be weighing a host of factors.

For anyone used to glad-handing politicians and long, boisterous campaigns, the conclave will be an election like no other. This race will be as secretive as the Kremlin's once were, if not more so.

Overt campaigning for the job remains unacceptable and would kill a man's chances.

The race is further complicated by the fact that the College of Cardinals has its largest crop of voters in history, and the most varied, hailing from 52 nations.

Clues to emerging front-runners will be hard to come by.

The 2005 election will draw the most massive media corps ever for a conclave, creating enormous pressure on the cardi-

NO CLEAR/ A4

Vidal voting, not aspiring, in conclave

VIDAL: Being Pope is a terrible job. CEBU DAILY NEWS

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal will leave for Rome tonight to attend the meeting of cardinals who will elect the successor of Pope John Paul II.

Msgr. Achilles Dakay, media liaison officer of the Cebu Archdiocese, yesterday said the Vatican sent a message by fax to Vidal on Sunday informing him that the 117 members of the College of the Cardinals would have their first meeting on Monday.

The message, which was in Italian, was signed by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the dean of the College of Cardinals, Dakay said.

But Vidal decided to skip the first day of the meeting because he had to officiate two Masses during the anniversary of the ordination into priesthood of Bish-

VIDAL/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms..

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANO, PDI RESEARCH/04/05/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

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3 senators to fight VAT on power

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THREE heavyweight senators have banded together to fight for the continued exemption of the power sector from the expanded value-added tax (VAT) measure that is nearing passage in the Senate.

The move of Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile and Mar Roxas puts them on a collision course with the Senate ways and means committee, chaired by Sen. Ralph Recto, which batted for the lifting of exemption of power and other sectors from VAT and the retention of the present rate of 10 percent.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday the key tax measure is likely to be passed by Congress by the end of next week. Drilon said he expected the approval "within the week after April 11."

A special session of Congress called by President Macapagal Arroyo ended Friday without the legislation being passed. Drilon said he had encouraged the principal authors of the bill from the House of Representatives and the Senate to hold "informal discussions" to come up with the final version of the measure. He said he hoped the final version would be submitted by April 18 to the conference committee, a bicameral body which would reconcile the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill.

Retaining 10% VAT

He said the final version would likely retain the 10 percent VAT.

At the resumption of the regular session of Congress on Monday, Santiago, Enrile and Roxas are expected to directly propose to the chamber that at least the power sector be spared from VAT. This will be during the period of individual amendments, the last major phase toward approval of the tax measure in the Senate.

Santiago, chair of the Senate committees on energy and on foreign relations, and Roxas of the Senate committees on economic affairs and on trade, belong to the administration majority. Santiago and Enrile, who is with the opposition, are veteran senators while Roxas, though a neophyte, is a former congressman and trade secretary of President Macapagal-Arroyo before topping the 2004 senatorial election.

They are opposing the VAT on the power sector on grounds it would result in higher prices, not just of electric power but also of other commodities that would further burden the poor.

"The three of us are coming from different directions but we are unanimous that electricity should not subject electricity to VAT," Santiago said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

'Test vote'

Santiago said that as soon as the period of individual amendments open, she would submit to a "test vote" the proposal to return the exemption of the power sector from VAT. She said the reaction of her colleagues would give her an indication of where senators would stand when the proper time comes to formally propose the amendment, that is when they come to the specific section of the bill on the lifting of exemptions.

Enrile has agreed to support Santiago's motion on the floor, she said, while Roxas will give his support not just in arguing the merits of the proposal but also in rallying support among the senators.

"Mar will campaign to build a coalition," Santiago said.

So far, Recto has voiced optimism the Senate would carry his committee report against the increase in the VAT rate from 10 percent to 12 percent, which the House of Representatives has approved.

Almost unanimous

Recto said senators are "almost unanimous" against increasing the rate because it would impose a heavier burden on the poor. Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. also predicted there is no way the Senate would vote for a higher VAT.

SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
PRESI
OF THE

APPLAUSE. Senate President Franklin Drilon, president of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and IPU secretary general Sergio Paez Verdugo applaud Carol Bellamy, head of the United Nations Childrens Fund (Unicef), after her speech before the IPU assembly yesterday at the plenary hall of the Philippine International Convention Center.

KILLING OF DISSENTERS

Party-list solons take case to IPU

By TJ Burgunio

SAYING Manila could be tolerating repression of dissent, party-list representatives yesterday called on the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference to pressure the Arroyo administration to halt the wave of killings of their colleagues.

The representatives distributed copies of an appeal to their foreign counterparts which urged them to condemn and express concern over the killings, abductions and violent attacks against their members to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The lawmakers made their move during a meeting of the IPU committee on peace and security, which discussed parliamentarians' role in establishing mechanisms for the sentencing of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism.

"Sadly, by its silence and inaction, President Macapagal-Arroyo is sending signals that it tolerates, if not encourages, the perpetrators to kill, abduct, harass and attack us with impunity," they said in the letter.

These attacks, they added, were aimed at crippling progressive parties and organizations in the country and stifling political dissent. "They are essentially attacks against the democratic rights of the people and the will of the electorate. They are attacks on representative democracy itself."

The letter was signed by Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodor Casiño and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna; Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis, and Liza Maza of Gabriela.

In the past three months, 29 officials and members of the three party-list groups were killed by gunmen suspected to be military personnel and policemen, while another five were abducted and remain missing, according to the lawmakers.

Bayan Muna, which topped the 2001 and 2004 party-list elections, bore the brunt of the attacks, with 49 of its officers and members killed since 2001. Nineteen members of Anakpawis, on the other hand, had been slain since 2003.

Gabriela reported that two of its members had been killed and four others detained by the military without charges.

Casiño said that an expression of concern by the foreign lawmakers over the violent attacks against their would "go a long way" in calling attention to the crimes and prompting the authorities to act on them.

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Bank says it won't bow to extortion

STANDARD Chartered Bank said yesterday it would not give in to what it termed as $2 million extortion attempt by a dismissed officer who has filed several cases against the London-based international bank following a soured $8,000 investment.

"We will pursue to the limit our extortion case against Manuel Baviera," said Reynaldo Geronimo, the bank's legal counsel, in a press statement.

Baviera, the bank's former vice president for HR Service Delivery and Industrial Relations, was ordered reinstated by a National Labor Relations Commission arbiter last week after he claimed he was dismissed when he complained against the bank's alleged sale of unregistered securities.

Geronimo said Baviera, through his lawyer, former Solicitor General Frank Chavez, gave the bank an ultimatum in June 2003 wherein he had threatened to file charges in various forums, including the Senate, if he was not paid $2 million within seven days.

Baviera made good his threat and subsequently filed cases against the bank at the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Department of Justice, and finally the Senate.

The bank filed a countersuit for extortion and perjury. The Department of Justice decided in favor of the bank. The case is now being tried by a Makati court.

The case, Geronimo said, started when Baviera's $8,000 investment in foreign funds went bad and he lost half of its value on paper, known to him and investors as paper loss.

Baviera, he said, asked the bank for a refund although his investment contract which he signed with his wife clearly said the potential risks and income were his alone.

Oil firms hike LPG prices

By Abigail L. Ho

CITING the rise in international prices Petron Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc. and Total (Philippines) Corp. yesterday hiked prices of their cooking gas by P1 a kilogram.

Each 11-kilogram cylinder of Petron's Gasul and Total's Total-Gaz became P11 more expensive at 12:01 a.m. yesterday. Caltex LPG prices rose by the same level at 12 p.m.

Another major liquefied petroleum gas supplier, oil refiner Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., had not made its own announcement as of press time yesterday.

The three firms said the rise in LPG contract prices in April prompted them to increase their prices.

The April contract price for LPG hit a high $417.10 per metric ton (MT), up by almost $38 per MT from the March price of $380.50 per MT.

In January and February, LPG contract prices were steady at $369.90 per MT, after dropping by more than $54 per MT from the December price of $424.00 per MT.

Pope is person most respected by Pinoys

THE POPE is still the person most respected by Filipinos in the world, according to results of the March 2005 Social Weather Survey.

Using a national sample of 1,200 adults, the survey conducted between Feb. 25 and March 10, found that 74 percent of Filipinos have trust in the Pope, while 12 percent have little trust in him—a very favorable Net Trust rating of +62, slightly up from +58 in the Nov. 2003 survey.

Public trust in Pope John Paul II is highest in Visayas (Net Trust +77), followed by Balance Luzon (+69), Metro Manila (+63) and Mindanao (+32).

Upper and middle classes have a more favorable opinion of the Pope compared to the lower classes.

The Pope's highest New Trust rating of +72 was achieved during his second visit in 1995 for the World Youth Day conference.

The survey, conducted weeks before he died, had also looked into the possibility of the Pope's retirement and found 58 percent agreeing, 15 percent undecided, and 20 percent disagreeing with the statement, "Because of the weak physical condition of Pope John Paul II, he should retire so that a new Pope can be chosen to take over his place" The Net Agreement score is + 38.

The survey had a sampling error margin of approximately +3 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for national-level percentages.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

World child trafficking now $10-B industry, says Unicef

It rivals trade in illicit drugs, arms

UNICEF warned yesterday that millions of children around the globe are being trafficked annually in an illegal industry worth $10 billion a year, rivaling the trade in illicit drugs and arms.

United Nations Children's Fund Executive Director Carol Bellamy urged lawmakers worldwide to ensure the protection of children by instituting laws that stop their exploitation and abuse.

"Parliamentarians have a choice," Bellamy said at the launch of a handbook to help lawmakers combat child trafficking that coincides with the Inter-Parliamentary Association's annual meeting in Manila, attended by hundreds of legislators from all over the world.

"They can make decisions that ensure the protection of children, or they can make decisions that leave children vulnerable to being exploited and abused," Bellamy said.

She said lawmakers can enact legislation to protect children, allocate funds from national budgets and use the power of parliamentary inquiry to hold governments, industries and civil society accountable.

IPU President Sergio Paez said ensuring respect for the rights of children "is part of our social responsibility" and calls "not only for the expression of political will, but also for the establishment of institutions, standards and a new international culture."

Bellamy said child trafficking persists because criminal syndicates are behind the illicit trade, tourism is sometimes involved, and victims often are afraid to come forward.

Curbing poverty and ensuring that children are in school would help reduce the vulnerability of youngsters from marginalized communities, she added.

There are no exact figures, but a US government report suggests 50 percent of all trafficked victims are children. Unicef says the trend is on the rise in an industry worth $10 billion a year.

International Labor Organization figures for 2000 estimate 1.8 million children are exploited in the commercial sex industry, while Unicef estimates that child soldiers have been used in more than 30 ongoing or recent armed conflicts in almost every region of the world.

Other forms of trafficking and abuse include girls sold as brides and children sold or stolen for adoption, or recruited to beg for their captors.

AP

'BIYAHE NA CARD'
Biyahe na Card, a project to boost domestic travel by the Department of Tourism and Smart, was launched on Sunday at the SM North Edsa in Quezon City. On hand to witness the event are, from left, SM Prime Holdings President Hans T. Sy, Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte, Tourism Secretary Ace Durano and Tourism Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab. ROGER CARPIO

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No clear front-runner in papal race

From page A1

nals to grant interviews—once a rarity.

That could influence the outcome. Cardinals will mostly limit their comments to generalizations, but colleagues may sift each others' remarks for programmatic hints or potential alliances.

For the insiders, important campaigning will occur in private—over meals and one-on-one or small group chats as cardinals assess candidates and take the measure of each other.

There won't be an American pope — the world body won't go for a superpower pontiff — but with 11 votes, they have potential to develop as a swing group.

Among the most critical questions facing the cardinals is, should the papacy be returned to an Italian, or should the cardinals make the bold gesture of choosing a pope from the Third World, where Catholicism is both thriving and threatened by competing faiths?

"A Third World pope would clearly indicate that this is no longer a European church, that we are truly catholic in the sense that the word catholic means universal," said the Rev. Thomas Reese, editor of America, a Jesuit weekly.

With all but three of the cardinal electors having been appointed by John Paul, nearly all his potential successors fit his mold of doctrinal conservatism on issues like abortion and euthanasia, birth control, homosexuality and the ordination of women.

So the more pivotal factors are likely to be the candidates' nationality and professional experience.

Italian factor

Vatican experts say the Italian cardinals have spent this long papacy figuring out how to get it back, and are not likely to cede it once again to an outsider.

The Pope, among his other titles, is after all the bishop of Rome, and many believe that if there is a clear front-runner from Italy, he will be considered first.

"I don't see that happening," said David Gibson, an American journalist who has worked in the Vatican and wrote "The Coming Catholic Church."

"This College of Cardinals is so diverse, from so many different places, and they have no love for the Italians," Gibson said.

What electors think

Here are recent comments from churchmen and other religious leaders about the qualities the next pontiff should have:

- Cardinal Bernard Panafieu (France): "We want to reflect first of all on the challenges facing the Church in the modern world today. And how the Church can respond, in the name of the Bible and with the Bible, to the questions that mankind poses, and not simply in Western Europe but also these huge continents that we often don't know very well, or where there are very lively Christian communities.

"I am thinking of India, and even China without even mentioning Latin America obviously."

- Cardinal Wilfred Napier (South Africa): "There are candidates on almost every continent—they are known as good leaders. One could come from anywhere. My own view is that we need someone who has vision and can look into the future—like John Paul did. I don't see myself in that light."

The poorest, the outsiders

- Cardinal Claudio Hummes (Brazil): "I think [the next pope] should continue to be a wise and saintly presence in the world.

"But he should also be someone who represents and has an influence in the world, in the world of unbelievers and people who believe different things. He needs to be a person who shows that he and the Church are at the service of humanity. Especially at the service of the poorest and most excluded.

"He should continue the dialogues—with the sciences, religions, society, with biotechnology, biology, bioethics. All those areas that are developing quickly and where there are many things that need to be discussed."

Legacy of John Paul

- Cardinal James Stafford (United States): "One is confronted with the past and the legacy that he has left us. I thought a great deal about that legacy. Now we are called to build upon that past in the process that looks to the future.

"That future is unknown to us at this point. But it has to be radically rooted in the magnificent teachings that the Holy Father has given to us."

- Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger (France): "I think it needs to be a man who is not similar to John Paul II—it would be absurd to think such things—but one who has the same qualities of love for truth, love for men, love for the salvation of men, and who has courage and strength.

"I have no preconceived ideas."

- Cardinal Theodore McCarrick (US): "There are many characteristics we need. I'm sure he will be a holy man, I'm sure he'll be a man who loves the poor, a man who loves the Church.

Not ready for US pope

"I don't think the world is ready for an American Pope although I have to say there are 11 of us voting and, except for me, all of them would make a good pope.

"The Lord will, I'm sure, guide us all."

- Cardinal Jorge Medina (Chile): "I want to vote for someone who is, above all, a shepherd. I'm not voting for a politician ...

"Now, as far as being conservative, every pope must be conservative. Saint Paul told his disciples, 'Conserve intact the deposit of faith.' A conservative is one who conserves. A pope cannot be liberal in Church doctrine.'"

- Cardinal Francisco Javier Errazuriz (Chile): "I do believe there will be a big opening up [toward the Third World and Latin America] ...

"No one believed 26 years ago we would have a Polish Pope ... and God gave him to the Church. What comes now? The day will come for a Latin American or African Pope."

Real saint needed

- Cardinal Philippe Barbarin (France): "What I ask God for, what I would like, is for the man to be elected to be a real saint. That is to say someone in whom you can see the light of Christ. Whether he is from Latin America, or Europe, whether he is old or young, whether he is like this or that—that is secondary.

"What is most important for me, is that when we see his face and hear his voice, we have the feeling, as with the arrival of John Paul II in October 1978, that Christ is coming into our homes."

- Cardinal Tom Williams (New Zealand): "I haven't any particular people in mind, but I do want for the Church someone who will carry out the direction set by John Paul II."

Manager or visionary?

Listing the minimal qualifications of a potential pope is easy.

After that, options range from conservatives to reformers, introverts to performers.

Should he be a manager or a visionary?

With no favorite in sight, Vatican insiders look first at the issues facing the Church and then ask who would best meet the challenges the conclave decides are most important.

Nobody figures in all main camps, so whoever wins will represent a compromise pointing to the Church's new priorities.

There are no doctrinal liberals among the 117 cardinal electors, so causes like women priests or acceptance of abortion are nonstarters. *The New York Times News Service, Reuters, AFP and AP*

Correction

THE NAME of the contributor who wrote the article "Wish ko lang for RP movies," which appeared in the Entertainment Section (Page A2-7) on March 28, should have been spelled Sigfreid Barros-Sanchez, not Sigfried.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

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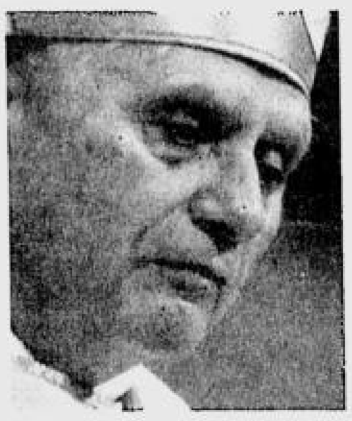


RATZINGER: 7-1

Milan cardinal bookies' favorite

DUBLIN—An Irish bookmaker will start taking bets on Monday on the likely successor to Pope John Paul II, with candidates from Italy, Nigeria and Honduras the punters' favorites to lead the world's 1.1 billion Catholics.

Paddy Power has been offering odds on who will be the new Pope for several years, but suspended betting on Saturday after the Pontiff's death.

"We've taken it down for 24 hours as a mark of respect," a Paddy Power spokesperson said.

The spokesperson, whose name is also Paddy Power, said the group had taken some 1,500 to 2,000 bets on the future pope.

The highest bet so far has been 1,000 euros ($1,296) on bookies' favorite Dionigi Tettamanzi at 5-1, but most of the bets taken have been small sums.

Odds on the 71-year-old Tettamanzi, cardinal-archbishop of Milan and an intellectual, being pope now stand at 5-2.

.Nigeria's Francis Arinze is the second choice at 11-4, followed by Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga of Honduras at 4-1 and Germany's Joseph Ratzinger at 7-1. *Reuters*

Vidal voting, not aspiring, in conclave

From page A1

op Antonio Rañola at the Blessed Pedro Calungsod Shrine and of Bishop Julito Cortez at the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral. The prelate had ordained them 25 years ago.

Qualities

In an interview with reporters at the Pedro Calungsod Shrine, Vidal said the next pope must be "a good shepherd who knows how to lead his flock during these modern times."

Asked if he would accept the post if he were chosen, Vidal shook his head, saying he was not interested in the position because being pope was a "terrible job."

Vidal, 74, is eligible to vote or to be selected as the next pope at the conclave, which will be held at the Sistine Chapel. Cardinals who are 80 years old and above are not eligible to vote.

According to Dakay, Vidal is the only cardinal in the Philippines who will participate in the election for the next pope.

The country has two other cardinals—Jaime Sin and Jose Sanchez—who are both retired. Sin is the former archbishop of Manila, while Sanchez is the former prefect of the Congregation of the Clergy based in the Vatican.

Not interested

On Sunday, Dakay said in an interview that although Vidal was eligible to run, Cebu's prelate was not interested in assuming the post.

He said Vidal had also refused to reveal his choice for pope. "I suppose he already made his choice because he knows all the cardinals," he added.

Dakay said Vidal had listed some of the qualities of the next Pontiff, including the "charm to communicate and deal [with] all the people in the world."

He must be knowledgeable in the workings of the churches in different continents and must speak several languages because he would be traveling around the world, Dakay said.

He said health and age would also matter so the new Pope would be able to serve the people well.

Good PR

"But the most important characteristic of the new Pope is he must have good PR so he can easily relate to people in different sectors like the Muslims, Jews, born-again Christians, non-Catholics and others," he said.

Dakay said the new Pope would be dealing with issues on family, marriage and poverty—matters contained in the Encyclical letters.

"The new Pope should implement whatever Encyclical letters have been written so far," he said.

The Encyclical letter goes around the world and addresses all men of goodwill. It is different from the Apostolic letter, which is intended only for people in the Catholic Church.

The Cebu Archdiocese issued a pastoral letter requesting parishes to offer Masses for nine days, starting Sunday, for the eternal repose of the soul of Pope John Paul II.

Dakay said several people had been lighting candles at the monument of Pope John Paul II in the Archbishop's Palace since Sunday night.

Vidal will be accompanied in his flight to Rome by Fr. Dennis Villarojo, he said. They will take a connecting flight from the Mactan Cebu International Airport and will be at their final destination in 14 to 16 hours, he added.

A royal wedding . . .

From page A1

holiday in Switzerland on Monday and flew back to London so he and Parker Bowles could attend a commemoration service for the Pontiff in London's Westminster Abbey.

"As a mark of respect, His Royal Highness and Mrs. Parker Bowles have decided to postpone their wedding until Saturday," said a spokesperson at Clarence House, the prince's office.

He will be Queen Elizabeth's representative in Rome.

The timing change could help resolve protocol problems not only for the prince but for others in the British establishment, including Prime Minister Tony Blair and Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.

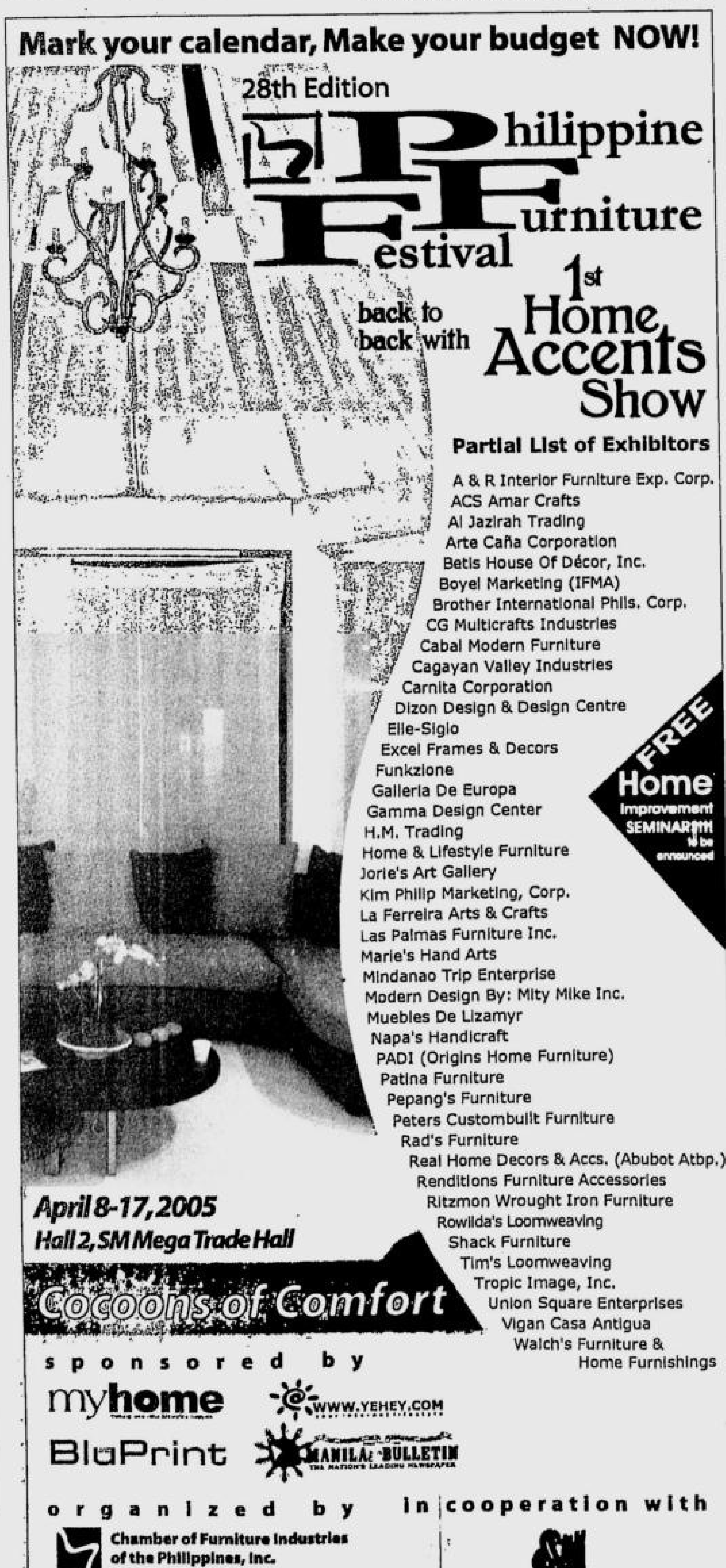
Williams, spiritual leader of the world's 77 million Anglicans, is to officiate at a service of blessing for Charles and Camilla after their civil ceremony wedding.

Blair has put off Monday's expected announcement of a May 5 election out of respect for the Pope.

Charles' wedding plans have been dogged from the outset by unexpected snarl-ups.

The venue had to be switched in a mixup over marriage licenses, constitutional experts questioned the legality of a civil ceremony and the Queen has declined to attend the civil ceremony. *Reuters*

PRINCE Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles AP



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SM MEGATRADE HALL

Gov't only got P500 in jewelry tax in 2002

By Philip C. Tubeza

FILIPINOS love imported jewelry but hate paying taxes on it.

In 2002, the government collected only P500 in taxes for imported jewelry. In 2001, there was none.

Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra revealed this yesterday as he batted for a "vanity tax" on luxury goods.

"There are horror stories on how imports evade taxes, but the P500 annual excise tax on imported jewelry takes the cake, as the amount can't even buy a strap of a cheap watch," Mitra said.

He said Mercedes Llamas, president of the Guild of Philippine Jewelers had told the House committee on ways and means that only P500 in excise taxes were collected from imported jewelry in 2002 while there was none in the previous year.

The committee was conducting hearings on Mitra's proposal to widen the coverage of the current 20-percent excise tax on luxury goods to include works of art and cosmetic surgery for aesthetic purposes.

Mitra said the Department of Finance did not deny the figures that the jewelers submitted during the DOF's budget hearings in February.

"If this is true, then jewelry shops flaunting their collection are in fact flouting the law. For how can we explain the brisk sales in imported jewelry when the tax collected on them is so small?" he said.

For their part, Ronald Velayo of the Philippine Jewelry Business Club and Cecilia Ramos of the Confederation of Meycauayan Jewelry Industry Association Inc. said their industry was hard hit by the influx of smuggled jewelry.

They said that "tons of gold and silver" had been flooding the country but nothing had been done to stop this.

Mitra agreed, saying that jewelry were the easiest to smuggle into the country.

"If ships as big as shopping malls can bring rice undetected, it comes as no surprise that smuggled jewelry, which can easily be hidden in luggage, have been flooding the country," he said.

Mitra also belied claims that the country's worsening economic condition had lessened the demand for imported jewelry.

"Binondo stores are full of stocks. And society pages of newspapers are full of pictures of ladies whose incandescent stones literally light up the parties," he said.

TRADE FIGURES DON'T MATCH

Smuggling costs RP P140B yearly, says study

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

ONE out of three items imported into the country is smuggled, depriving the government of as much as P140 billion in revenues annually, according to a study by the Center for Research and Communication (CRC).

The private think-tank compared official import figures of the government with actual exports by other countries to the Philippines from 1989 to 2001 and discovered P140 billion in trade leakages.

CRC economist Victor A. Abola said that his 2004 study was an "improvement" over previous attempts to quantify the trade leakages in the country's international trade because it made use of export and import data provided by the IMF that addressed procedural differences in data gathering, processing and reporting.

"This will allow greater comparability of import and export data and will provide greater detail in presenting the discrepancies," Abola said.

While there are basic differences between import (which include insurance and freight costs) and export (based on freight on board costs) data, Abola said that "conceptually, Philippine imports should be equal to what is exported by other countries to the Philippines—they should be mirror images."

The study showed that the country's leakage rate was pegged at an average of 23 percent from 1989 to 2001 valued at $5.161 billion a year.

But Abola pointed out that the leakage rate peaked at 35.9 percent in 2000 valued at $16.394 billion. At this rate, the country lost P139.4 billion in potential taxes and duties that year based on an exchange rate of P50 to the US dollar, a 10 percent value added tax and an average tariff rate of 7 percent.

This is double the projected revenue of P68.15 billion from the government's proposal to increase the VAT rate from 10 percent to 12 percent.

The study also identified the top 10 countries with the highest trade leakages and the most preferred smuggled items. They are Japan ($1.5 billion a year), United States ($785 million), Singapore ($667 million), Hong Kong ($594 million), unspecified Asian countries including Taiwan ($368 million), Korea ($362 million), China ($300 million), Malaysia ($210 million), France ($189 million) and the United Kingdom ($128 million). All countries have electronic products as their most smuggled item with the exception of Hong Kong which has pearls, precious stones, metals and coins as its most preferred smuggled items.

The study is being used by proponents of the Anti-Smuggling Act to urge Congress to put more teeth in laws punishing smugglers, both outright and technical (undervaluation, underdeclaration, misclassification and diversion of cargo).

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Biggest pilgrimage to Rome seen

From page A1

warplanes and helicopters would enforce a no-fly zone over the capital.

Mayor Walter Veltroni warned that Rome faced one of the biggest organizational tasks in its history, surpassing even the Catholic Jubilee Year in 2000 when 30 million pilgrims crammed into its cobbled streets over a 12-month period.

"For us, it is an extraordinary test, of the most tremendous importance. It's going to be like organizing the Jubilee in just 48 hours," he told reporters.

Rome laid on extra trains and fresh water supplies and began to erect hundreds of tents on Sunday in expectation that the death of Pope John Paul II may spark the greatest influx of pilgrims in its history.

A queue of mourners began to snake round the Vatican in readiness for Pope John Paul II's body to go on public view Monday.

As black-clad Swiss Guards, the traditional guardians of the Vatican, stood watch, a line of thousands of people—growing all the time—stretched from St. Peter's Basilica.

"The Long Farewell to John Paul the Great,'" Italy's Corriere della Sera newspaper said in a headline.

Barriers

Barriers have been set up to contain crowds, with hundreds of thousands of people expected to file solemnly past the body in the next few days in a last farewell to the 84-year-old Pontiff who died late Saturday.

Some young pilgrims, eager to be the first to see the Pope's body, staked out positions in cobblestoned St. Peter's Square.

"If it hadn't been for this Pope, I would have completely lost my faith. I always trusted him, and needed to come here today to see him," said 22-year-old Silvia Mazzacani, who took an overnight train from northern Italy.

"There's a great emptiness, a solitude," said Giuseppe Casiglia from Naples south of Rome.

"We felt the need to come to Rome to say goodbye and pray for the Pope."

Roberto Comelli had spent all night at St. Peter's Square waiting to see the Pope's corpse.

"It scares me to see a dead body but this is our pope and I have to say goodbye," he said.

Details of funeral

Around the world, Christians and people of other faiths prayed, mourned and paid tribute to a Pope seen as transcending religious barriers.

In Asia, flags were lowered to half-staff from Hindu India to Australia and Buddhist Thailand to the staunchly Catholic Philippines.

In his native Poland and across Europe, in the Middle East, Africa and the Americas, special Masses were said, vigils kept and candles burned.

Cardinals, convening for the first time since the Pope's death, gathered in the Vatican's Bologna Hall to finalize details of the funeral. They opened the session by declaring an oath of secrecy in anticipation of their forthcoming conclave to elect the next head of the Roman Catholic Church.

Public viewing

The Pope's embalmed body was to be carried in a solemn procession from the Apostolic Palace, the papal residence where he died, across St. Peter's Square and into the basilica, one of the world's largest churches.

It was to be laid before the altar, guarded by Swiss guards.

The procession was expected to begin at 4 p.m. (1400 GMT) with the public being allowed into the basilica an hour later.

Crypt under basilica

Italy's Corriere della Sera said John Paul II was to be buried in the crypt underneath the basilica.

It also quoted a Polish cardinal denying suggestions the Pope's heart may be buried in Krakow, the city where he was formerly bishop.

Polish pilgrims holding vigil in St. Peter's Square said they nonetheless hoped he would be buried in a Polish flag.

The body was laid out in the palace Sunday for cardinals, officials—and television cameras—after a huge Mass in the square celebrating his 26-year pontificate.

"God, our Father, has called our Pope John Paul II to Himself. We beg the Lord to welcome him into his kingdom," Cardinal Eduardo Martinez Somalo, the Cardinal Camerlengo, temporary governor of the Church until the election of a new pope, said as he sprinkled holy water over the body.

He was pictured dressed in red and white robes and a white miter, a serene expression on his face, while his pale hands clutched rosary beads. A crucifix lay alongside, crooked in his left elbow.

Up to 200,000 worshippers gathered in St. Peter's Square to hear the Pope's own words read out at a Requiem Mass for the world's best known religious leader, who helped topple communism and stamped a rigid orthodoxy on his Church.

"It is love which converts hearts and gives peace," said the text, which was read out by an archbishop.

Makeshift shrine

Some of the younger people who attended that Mass stayed overnight in the square to sing Christian songs and chant the Pope's name.

Others left messages, drawings and mementos for the dead Pope, taped on the square's lampposts, which quickly became makeshift shrines.

Official mourning is being observed across Italy and in the Vatican. Flags are flying at half-staff and official events have been cancelled.

Huge television screens to show the funeral went up at 10 sites, among them the Circus Maximus, ancient Rome's chariot-racing track.

Regional railway authorities reported a 30-percent increase in arrivals in Rome. The city's two main airports said they expected a heavy flow of visitors from Monday.

Largest contingent

While pilgrims will fly in from around the world, the largest contingent is likely to come from Poland to pay their final respects to their illustrious countryman.

Workmen on Sunday began constructing "tent cities" in sports venues like Rome's Olympic Stadium to accommodate the visitors.

The city council has also drafted in hundreds of voluntary staff and sanitation crews to build makeshift toilets and drinking fountains.

Tributes have poured in for the late Pope from every faith and continent.

Arab militant groups Hamas and Hizbollah praised the Pope for his efforts to bring peace to that region.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said: "The world has lost one of the great leaders of our age. He was a man of peace ... who worked for reconciliation between people."

Egyptian Sheikh Mohammed Sayyed Tantawi—seen as the highest authority in Sunni Islam—said: "The death of the Pope is a great loss for the Catholic Church and the Muslim world."

The spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, the Dalai Lama, said he had a "deep appreciation for the Pope's mission to bring peace to the world."

Agca mother to attend

A poignant message came from the family of the Pope's would-be 1981 assassin, Mehmet Ali Agca.

"He (Agca) is extremely sad. He has lost his brother, the Pope, and he is in mourning," Adnan Agca told Agence France-Presse, adding that he and his mother hoped to attend the funeral.

The Pope's passing also drew reactions from critics of his conservative views.

In France, a left-wing Catholic group called We Are Also the Church said the Pontiff "was completely out of touch with changes in values and in philosophical and scientific conceptions of life."

A frosty message came from China, which demands that the Vatican break off relations with its arch-rival Taiwan.

"We hope that the Vatican under the new pope will create conditions conducive to the improvement of relations with China," a foreign ministry statement said. *Reports from AFP and Reuters*

Special PAL flight for GMA to Rome

From page A1

pines," she told reporters.

"He was most especially concerned with having peace, progress and brotherhood in Mindanao," she said, referring to Mindanao that has been a hotbed of Muslim separatism for decades.

The Pope's visit to Manila in 1981 was credited with sowing the seeds of a bloodless popular revolt that would topple the rule of dictator Ferdinand Marcos five years later.

In 1995, some 4.5 million Filipinos flocked to see the Pontiff during the 10th celebration of World Youth Day.

"If the President can attend the funeral of an ordinary person or a head of state, how much more [that of] an extraordinary man like the Pope?" Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said in a radio interview.

Apprehensions

The Philippines will be in a national period of mourning and flags will fly at half-staff until the Pope is buried, he said.

There has been some apprehensions over the President's trip to Vatican considering that the government is in an austerity mode to reduce its budget deficit.

But in the end, Malacañang felt the President had to personally pay respect to the Pope.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago saw no impropriety, expensewise in particular, in the President packing her bags to join political and religious leaders to pay their last respects to the Pope.

"Yes, [she should go] if only to emphasize that the Philippines is one of the biggest Catholic populations of the world. I expect her to go and she should go," Santiago said in a phone interview.

Santiago said there should be no criticisms if the President went to the funeral despite the country's financial problems.

"It will jar the nerves of the international media if there will be carping in the [Philippine media] about expenses," Santiago said.

She said the President could keep expenses to the minimum by limiting, for instance, her delegation and the number of days she would be away.

Flags in all city government facilities in Manila will also be flown at half-staff until the Pope, who came to Manila twice, is laid to rest.

"We are inspired by the Pope's teachings on the constant propagation of a culture of life," Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, chair of Pro-Life Philippines, said.

The Pope's second visit drew the largest crowd ever.

Quiapo Church

At the Quiapo Church, men, women and children were seen crying while clutching rosaries or embracing pictures of the Holy Father.

The church was filled to capacity as people lit candles and offered prayers.

"This is painful for Filipinos, painful for the whole world. I am deeply affected by this loss," said Kit Sembrano, a businessman, after attending an afternoon Mass.

Another churchgoer, Imelda Sam, a housewife, said: "I am happy for him because we all know that he is now with our Creator."

In the Archdiocese of Caceres in Camarines Sur, there will be no rosary, novena, procession or special rituals in the observance of the nine-day mourning,

The archdiocese observes the mourning of the passing of the Pope by dedicating all Masses said since Sunday for the "eternal repose" of the Pontiff's soul, said Fr. Rex Andrew Alarcon, a staff member of Archbishop Leonardo Legazpi.

Special place

The Muslims in Mindanao are also weeping over the death of the Pope.

That's because like the country's Catholics, they, too, had a special place in the heart of the 84-year-old Pontiff.

Even when he was already weak, the Pope played a major role in promoting peace in Mindanao, said Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

"He had a very special message for the Mindanao bishops and I was very happy because he singled out the Bishops-Ulama Conference where I am the convenor," he said.

The Pope also urged the Catholic and Muslim religious leaders to implement the "10 propositions for peace" formulated by leaders of world religions in January 2003.

Reconciliation

The propositions—anchored on reconciliation, repentance and forgiveness—helped prepare the road map for promoting peace in Mindanao.

Capalla said the Holy Father was so keen on helping Filipinos in Mindanao that he personally wrote leaders there to consider the peace proposals.

During the meeting, he said the Pope even joined him and his delegation in singing Cebuano songs.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales also witnessed the Pope's concern for the people of Mindanao during an "Ad-Limina" visit to the Vatican. He was then bishop of Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

In his Vatican office, the Pope checked a big map to locate the diocese, the archbishop recalled.

"You must never embarrass them! Never embarrass them! Even if you do not agree, never, never embarrass them!" Rosales recalled the Pope telling him. The Pope was referring to rebels involved in an armed conflict in the province.

Dignity of labor

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said the Pope had cared for Filipinos, both body and soul.

"He blessed the Philippines with pastoral visits twice, in 1981 and yet again in 1995. He will always be remembered as the Pope who canonized [in October 1987] the first Filipino saint Lorenzo Ruiz," Romulo said in his message of sympathy to Vatican City.

The Pope beatified Lorenzo Ruiz during his Feb. 18, 1981 visit. He presented a bronze statue of the martyr as his "gift" to the Filipino people.

The militant labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno joined Christians in mourning the death of Pope John Paul II.

"He valued the dignity of human work and promoted the rights to a just wage and to the personal security of the worker and his or her family. He criticized unemployment, low wages and other violations of workers' rights as violations of the dignity of human work," KMU chair Elmer Labog said in a statement.

In his encyclical "Laborem Exercens" (On Human Work), which was released in 1981, the Pope called work a human right.

As an activity, work could not be considered a mere merchandise and treating workers as mere tools does no justice to their personal dignity, the Pope said. *Reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr., Juliet Labog-Javellana, Tina G. Santos, Christian V. Esguerra, Volt Contreras and Jerome Aning in Manila; Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and AFP*

More inquiries on flights to Rome swamp airlines

AN AIRLINE official said his office had been receiving calls from people who were inquiring if there were available flights to Rome since Sunday, a day after the much-loved Pope John Paul II died.

Yesterday alone, the official told the INQUIRER, he himself answered nine calls from different people asking about ticket reservations and flights to Rome.

"They were asking about seats [availability]. Many said they wanted to attend the wake or the funeral of the Pope," the official said, requesting anonymity.

The official described these as wayward phone calls because his office was not handling ticketing services.

The source surmised that these people were simply anxious to go to Rome.

"Why else would they call the office on a Sunday night?" added the source, who was on duty last Sunday.

The source added a thought, however: "I wonder if they already have visas to Europe."

The source said the callers were inquiring about flights being offered by European airlines based in Manila.

In a separate interview, an official of a European airline told the INQUIRER that he was expecting an increase in Rome-bound passengers in the coming days.

"Our flights are still open today. But in the next few days, I think there will be more people who would go there [Rome] especially with the Pope's demise," the official said.

Creator of saints strong candidate for sainthood, too

From page A1

so they could "say goodbye to the Pope."

But the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of the Saints normally takes decades to complete the exhaustive inquiries it deems necessary to confirm miracles attributed to potential saints.

The road to sainthood begins with the attribution of one miracle to the candidate, which if confirmed leads to beatification.

It takes another miracle to achieve sainthood.

So far no one has come forward to attribute a cure to the Pontiff who, the Corriere della Sera said on Sunday, had died "a public death, like Christ on the cross."

"He used to tell us that in the third millennium, one could be a saint, and he showed us," said Davide Annibale, a 21-year-old student from Naples.

'Serenity of saints'

John Paul II's secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, went further, telling Sunday's huge open-air Mass that the Pope had died with "the serenity of saints."

It was during Sodano's homily that he referred to his former boss as "John Paul the Great."

The burgeoning cult around the recently dead Pope is already gathering strength, and the first makeshift shrines to him sprang up around the square on Sunday.

Some of the dozens of notes left on lampposts refer to John Paul II in Christ-like terms after the very public suffering he endured in recent years.

Resurrected in the hearts

"Now that you are resurrected, you remain in our hearts," said one message, written on a paper napkin.

The Pope was often referred to as a "living saint," like Mother Teresa, whom he put on the way to sainthood two years before his death with the fastest beatification in Church history, just six years after her death.

Agnew was cautious.

Opus Dei controversy

"It's a slow process. And you have to remember that there was a major row when the Pope's elevation of Escriva was seen as being unseemly quick," he said.

The Pope controversially made Opus Dei founder Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer, who died in 1975, a saint in 2002. Escriva was just one of 482 saints created by John Paul II, who beatified 1,338 people.

An icon of the sick because of his own illnesses, John Paul II is sure to be invoked often in the prayers of the very ill, and it is likely that sooner rather than later, some will come forward with claims of a miracle, beginning the long process of investigation by the Vatican.

Exemplary life

And if some Vatican insiders get their way, the need for proven miracles may be scrapped.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the archbishop of Genoa and former secretary of the powerful Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said two years ago that what mattered was not whether people had performed miracles, but whether they had displayed "heroic virtue"—led an exemplary life.

Few would say that John Paul II had not.

Voices of discord

But even as eulogies poured in, the first sounds of discord emerged from critics of his conservative views.

An international Catholic movement called "We are Church" said in a statement that, while the late Pontiff deserved praise for his quest to bridge the gap between religions and his stand on the death penalty and other issues, his pontificate had brought little change within the Church.

In France, a left-wing Catholic group called "We are also the Church" (NSAE) accused John Paul II of befriending Latin American dictatorships and colluding in economic and social oppression.

The group, which is close to Bishop Jacques Gaillot, who was removed from his see by the Pope for his left-wing activism, said the Pontiff "knew how to exploit methods of mass communication, but he was completely out of touch with changes in values and in philosophical and scientific conceptions of life."

Protecting the faith

John Paul's conservatism was often seen as coming from his formation in the Polish Catholic Church, a body that remained immune to liberalizing trends in the West during the four decades of communist rule.

He once told reporters that the Catholic Church should not be viewed as a democracy or an association of "free thinkers."

Dissident Swiss theologian Hans Kung charged that "the upshot is that the Catholic Church has completely lost the credibility it once enjoyed under the papacy of John XXIII and in the wake of the Second Vatican Council."

To his critics, the late Pope refused to keep pace with the demands of his flock or the changes in the modern world.

To John Paul, it was a question of protecting what he called the "truths of the Faith." *AFP, AP*

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GMA distances self from Nora Aunor drug bust case in LA

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

VETERAN actress Nora Aunor's endorsement may have given President Macapagal-Arroyo's stock a boost in the May elections, but Ms Arroyo is not too keen on helping the "Superstar" out of her drug bust in Los Angeles.

"I think the DFA (Department of Foreign Affairs) has announced that efforts will be done at their level," said President Arroyo when asked whether she would help Aunor in her drug charges during a briefing at the Clark airfield in Pampanga.

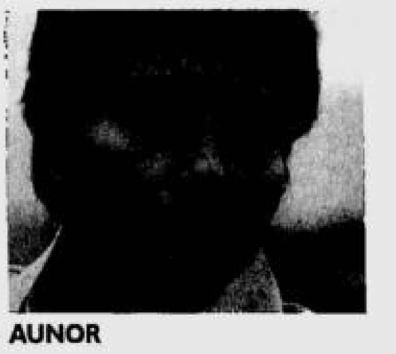
The Philippine consulate in Los Angeles has offered to give Aunor legal assistance. This offer is standard fare because the government is duty-bound to provide free legal assistance to Filipinos facing criminal charges abroad.

Aunor is set to appear in court on April 21 for her arrest at the Los Angeles airport for possession of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

Aunor, who is currently out on bail, has a long history with the President, who parlayed her striking resemblance to the award-winning actress, into a successful campaign gimmick in 1998 when she won the vice presidency.

In 2001, Aunor was among the high-profile supporters of President Joseph Estrada who abandoned the movie actor at the height of a people uprising that eventually led to Ms Arroyo's assumption to power.

Last year, Aunor found herself in the middle of a political controversy after she was discovered to have received money from the government. While it was alleged that she got compensation for endorsing the President who needed star power to beat her rival, movie star Fernando Poe Jr., Aunor claimed that the government check in her name was for work promoting the social services program.



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Administration solons laud Susan Roces 'peace' stand

ADMINISTRATION congressmen yesterday lauded the decision of Susan Roces, widow of actor Fernando Poe Jr., to pursue the election protest of her late husband through legal means and not through street protests.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Rep. Marcelino Libanan said the political opposition should follow her example to avoid unrest after the Supreme Court, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, last week junked Poe's election protest.

"We hope the opposition would follow her decision not to join the street protests and instead support her decision to study all legal remedies possible relative to the Presidential Electoral Tribunal's decision," Nograles said.

He said Roces' decision "showed her character as a person of peace," adding that it also displayed her regard for the justice system. Roces' lawyer Sixto Brillantes earlier said Roces could either file a motion for reconsideration or a manifestation not to file.

Nograles said that while the Arroyo administration respected freedom of expression, the planned street protests by Poe's supporters would do more harm than good for the country.

"The opposition has threatened to go on massive protest whenever it loses a case against the administration. There is no need to take to the streets for this case because the court's ruling was clearly grounded on basic jurisprudence which resulted in a unanimous vote," Nograles said.

"Let's respect the decision of the highest court of the land," he added. *Philip C. Tubeza*

2 kidnap suspects killed in sea clash off Tawi-Tawi

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

TWO SUSPECTED kidnappers were killed while two others were wounded in an encounter in Tawi-Tawi waters with government forces Saturday, the Navy reported yesterday.

Navy officials believe the suspects are involved in the kidnapping of three Indonesian crew members in Malaysian waters last week.

Naval forces are coordinating with their Malaysian counterparts in search of the three crew members of a Malaysian tugboat who were abducted Wednesday in the Sulawesi Sea.

The kidnappers were believed to have fled to the direction of Tawi-Tawi.

Navy spokesperson Capt. Geronimo Malabanan said naval forces on board the BRP Mariano Alvarez spotted two speedboats in the vicinity of Busa Buani Island, Tawi-Tawi, around 4 p.m. Saturday.

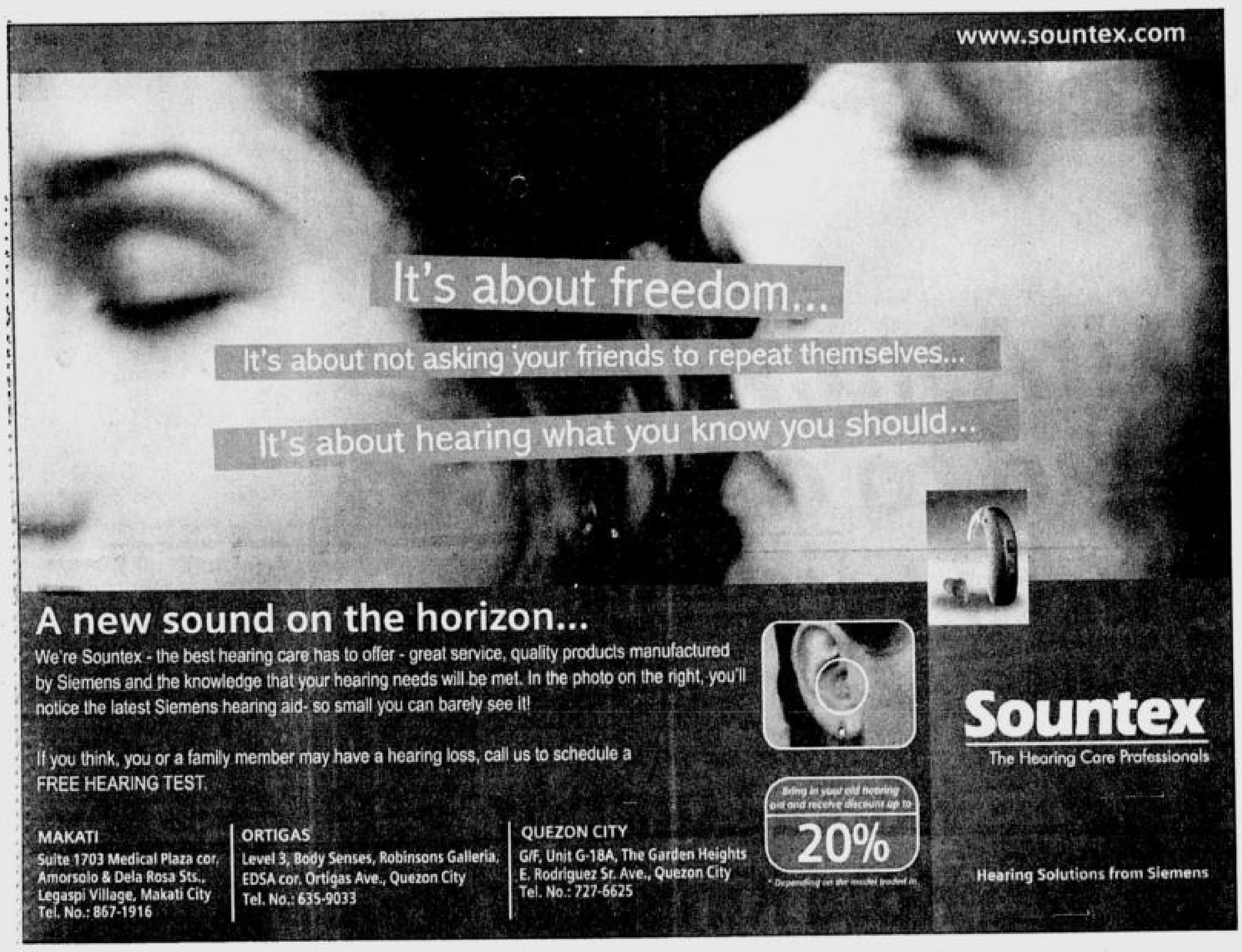
The speedboats, which were reportedly headed towards Malaysian waters in full speed, ignored signals to stop by Navy SEALs on board two rubberized hull inflated boats.

"After two warning shots from the SEALs, one of the speedboats returned fire" which started a firefight, Malabanan said.

He said two persons on board one of the speedboats were killed, while two others onboard the second speedboat were wounded.

"Their identities are still being confirmed by the local police of Tawi-Tawi," Malabanan said.

He said the Navy will continue its patrol operations in southern Mindanao to hunt down the kidnappers.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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, April 5, 2005
2nd Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 4:32-37
Gospel: John 3:7-15

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Don't be surprised when I say: 'You must be born again from above.'

"The wind blows where it pleases and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. It is like that with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus asked again, "How can this be?" And Jesus answered, "You are a teacher in Israel, and you don't know these things!

"Truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and we witness to the things we have seen, but you don't accept our testimony. If you don't believe when I speak of earthly things, what then, when I speak to you of heavenly things? No one has ever gone up to heaven except the one who came from heaven, the Son of Man.

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

Commentary

We now find ourselves in the midst of Jesus' words to Nicodemus who comes by night to speak with the Light of the World. Jesus exhorts him to be born from above, born in water and the Spirit (baptism and confirmation). Jesus teaches him about the Spirit, the wind that blows where it will and we can hear its sound (Word of God). We must look to the Word of God and to the life of Jesus, especially to his death and resurrection to understand what this new life of baptism and the Spirit is like. We must look upon the Son of Man crucified and raised up to know the depth of God's love for the world and all that he has made. We must learn to listen to the Spirit in Jesus' Word, the Word of the Scripture that brings life.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Neglect of duty by a sheriff in extrajudicial foreclosure—The respondent is guilty of neglect of duty for his act in extrajudicially foreclosing the property of complainant despite the absence of the requisite special power in the real estate mortgage authorizing the mortgagee to foreclose the mortgage extrajudicially in case of non-payment. Paragraph 2 and 2 (c) of Administrative Order No. 3 specifically provides that it is the duty of the Office of the Sheriff to examine, upon receipt of an application for extrajudicial foreclosure of real estate mortgages whether the applicant has complied with all the requirements under Act 3135. Respondent failed to ascertain that the application for extrajudicial foreclosure of mortgage did not contain any statement regarding the requisite special power of attorney conferring upon the mortgagee the power to sell the mortgaged property at public auction in the event of mortgagor's failure to pay his debts. Such absence should have alerted him and he should have referred to the attached deed of real estate mortgage where he could see the absence of such authority. Sheriffs are bound to discharge their duties with prudence, caution and attention which careful men usually exercise in the management of their affairs. [Reference: Section 1 of Act 3135, as amended] [Citations omitted.] [Resolution, Justice Austria-Martinez, Second Division, Grayda vs Primo, Adm. Matter No. P-04-1897, November 1, 2004]

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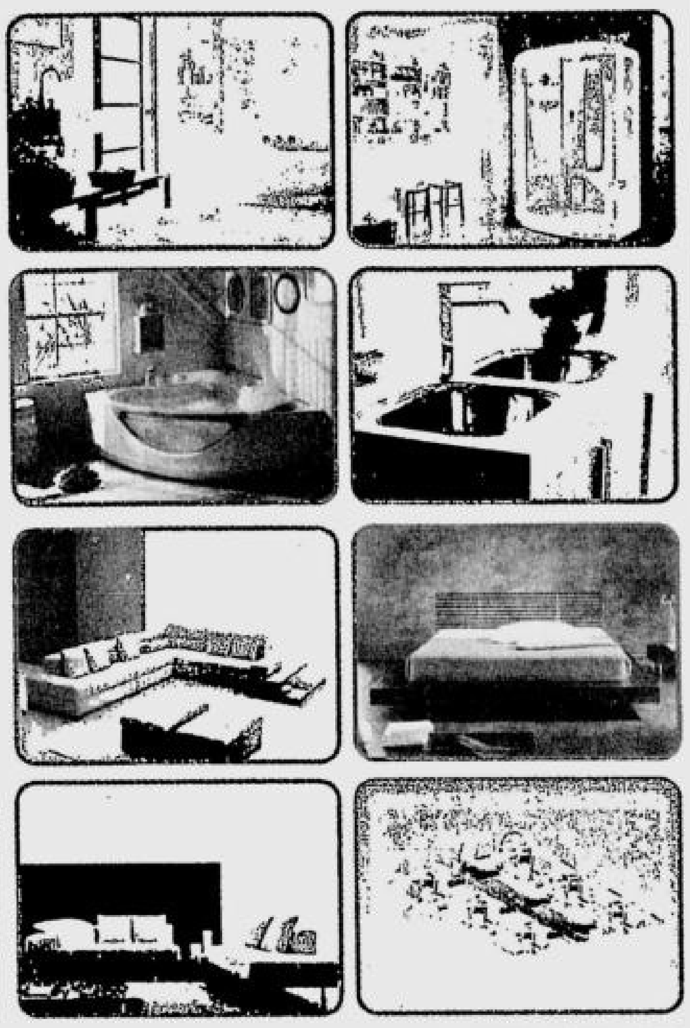

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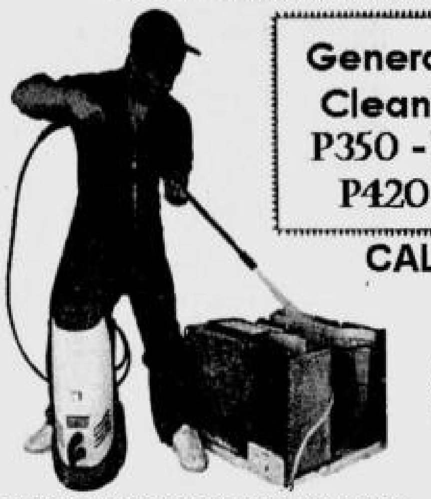

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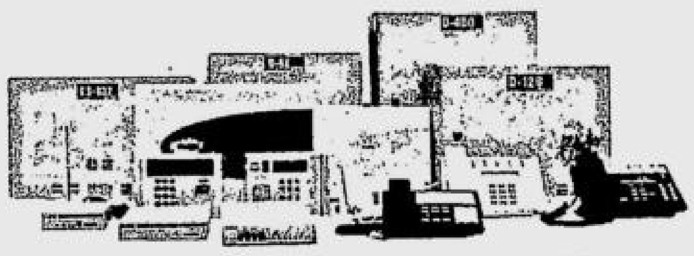

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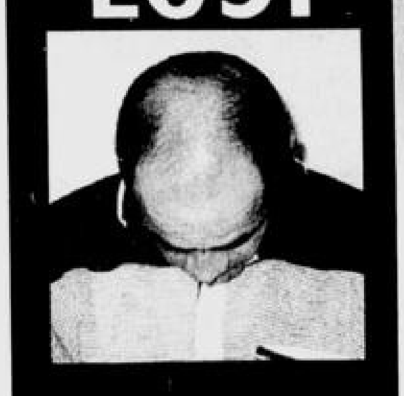

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Syria to pull out all troops from Lebanon by April 30

DAMASCUS—Syria has promised to withdraw all its forces from Lebanon by April 30 and will let a United Nations team verify the pullout, a UN envoy said on Sunday.

Damascus ordered the withdrawal, demanded by a UN Security Council resolution seven months ago, after coming under intense international pressure over the Feb. 14 assassination of a Lebanese former prime minister, Rafik al-Hariri.

The UN envoy, Terje Roed-Larsen, said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara had told him "all Syrian troops, military assets and the intelligence apparatus will have been withdrawn fully and completely ... by April 30, 2005."

Roed-Larsen was speaking at a joint news conference with Shara after talks with President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus.

"Syria has agreed that subject to the acceptance of the Lebanese authorities a UN verification team will be dispatched to verify the (full withdrawal)," said Roed-Larsen. A Syrian source said the team would report to the UN envoy.

Lebanese opposition figures hailed the announcement, which fulfilled one of their key demands.

Syria first sent troops to Lebanon in 1976, early in its 1975-90 civil war, but in recent years had reduced numbers to about 14,000 from a peak of 40,000.

UN Resolution 1559, sponsored by the United States and France, demanded the departure of all foreign forces, the disbanding of all Lebanese militias and respect for Lebanon's political independence.

"Syria by its full withdrawal from Lebanon would have implemented its part of Resolution 1559," Shara said.

The declared timetable means all Syrian forces will have left before Lebanon holds parliamentary elections. The polls were due to have taken place in May, but might be pushed back because of political turmoil since Hariri's killing.

Lebanese opposition leaders have accused Syria or the Lebanese security agencies that it backs of responsibility for Hariri's death. Damascus denies any involvement. *Reuters*

Past militarism clouds Japan's Security Council bid

TOKYO—Anti-Japanese outbursts in China and South Korea, where resentment of Japan's past militarism runs deep, are clouding the country's campaign for a permanent UN Security Council seat just as things were looking up.

Diplomatic analysts said the opposition from Japan's two Asian neighbors could dent its drive for a permanent presence in the world body's inner circle of decision makers if policy makers can't resolve mistrust and repair ties.

"When China says you can't make Japan a permanent member of the UN Security Council, everyone listens and everyone nods," said Yoshihide Soeya, a professor of international relations at Keio University in Tokyo.

Some 3,000 protesters marched and vandalized two Japanese department stores in China's southern Shenzhen city on Sunday to denounce Tokyo's bid for a permanent seat, Hong Kong newspapers reported.

Demonstrators also turned rowdy in the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu on Saturday, breaking windows at a Japanese supermarket before police moved in, a Japanese official said.

Millions of Chinese have already signed an online petition against giving Japan a permanent seat.

Beijing has so far been biting its tongue about Japan's bid, saying only that China supports more developing-country representation on the Security Council.

But a negative stance would hurt, not least because of China's veto power as one of the current five permanent members.

Keen for diplomatic recognition to equal its economic clout, Japan launched its drive for a permanent seat about a decade ago.

Since then, Tokyo has grown increasingly irked at the fact that it foots about 20 percent of the world body's bills but lacks a permanent seat on the 15-member Security Council, which is empowered to make decisions on war, sanctions and peacekeeping. *Reuters*

A CATHOLIC prays during a Mass in memory of the late Pope John Paul II at the Franciscan church of St. Savior's Monastery in Jerusalem's Old City April 3. AFP

Pope never understood 'Liberation Theology,' says Brazil Catholic rebel

BRASILIA—Leonardo Boff, the Brazilian theologian who the Vatican sought to silence because of his radical views, said Sunday that Pope John Paul II never understood the "Liberation Theology" that he opposed in Latin America.

The outspoken Boff said John Paul II's Polish roots, living through Nazi occupation and the Cold War meant he could not see that "the enemy" in Latin America was not Nazism or communism but "the elites without any social sensitivity."

Boff was a Roman Catholic priest during the 1970s and 1980s who became a leading activist for Liberation Theology which partly advocated social and political activism in the fight against poverty.

With some opponents saying it was almost Marxist, John Paul II opposed the activists and replaced many bishops who supported Liberation Theology. The Vatican twice ordered Boff to remain silent and he left the priesthood in 1992.

"The Pope saw this movement with the view of a Pole who had fought Nazism and Stalinism," Boff said on Globo News television. "He wanted to maintain a church that was strongly united, a traditional force against that type of regime."

Boff said John Paul II considered Liberation Theology to be a "Trojan horse for communism: a communism that would break up the church" and fought the Latin American radicals "with ferocity."

The theologian highlighted how Liberation Theology sought to counter "savage capitalism, the elites without any social sensitivity."

He described John Paul II as "a deeply charismatic, deeply religious figure who gave religion back a political force to mobilize the masses and helped to bring down a regime like the Soviet Union."

But Boff said that the Pope also reimposed a strong religious authority "which was something new in a modern society which had marginalized or privatized religion." *AFP*

How new popes choose their names

VATICAN CITY—A new pope is free to choose a name he wants to carry during his pontificate after he has been elected by cardinals, the "princes of the Church" who rank above every other ecclesiastic but the pope.

The successor to Pope John Paul II can choose a Latinized form of his Christian name or the name of an earlier pope, or a saint's name.

He may also want to pick a name that would attribute a quality to him, such as Pius (pious) or Innocent.

Some allow personal considerations to guide them, such as Pope John XXII, who chose his name to honor the memory of his father.

Up to the end of the first millennium, popes generally kept their Christian name.

The first to change his handle was John II in 533. Born Mercury, he decided he could not head the Catholic Church with the name of a pagan Roman god.

In 1009, Sergius IV, whose given name was Peter, switched out of respect to Saint Peter, feeling that becoming Peter II was too presumptuous.

The first pope name to be repeated through the history of the Church was Sixtus. The first Sixtus took the pontificate in the second century and to date there have been four others that followed.

The given names most often chosen have been John (23 times), Gregory (16), Clement (14), Innocent (13), Leo (13) and Pius (12).

As with kings and emperors, popes add a Roman numeral to their name if they had a namesake as predecessor.

The first pope to use a double name was John Paul I in 1978 who wanted to pay tribute to his two immediate predecessors, John XXIII and Paul VI.

At the end of John Paul I's one-month long pontificate in September 1978, his successor, Polish Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, chose the same name with the aim of ensuring continuity, becoming Pope John Paul II. *AFP*

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Bombings in Thailand airport, others kill 2

BANGKOK—Two people were killed and at least 40 wounded Sunday when three near-simultaneous bombs exploded at an airport in southern Thailand, outside a Carrefour supermarket and near a hotel, police said.

"Two people have died from the bomb at the airport" in Hat Yai, the region's largest city and its commercial capital, Songkhla province's police commander Maj. Gen. Suraphol Thongprasert told AFP.

The attack at the airport—a gateway to the Muslim-majority deep south used by thousands of international tourists, particularly visiting Malaysians—marked one of the most brazen attacks on public institutions since a separatist insurgency erupted in January 2004.

More than 630 people have been killed in violent attacks by insurgents or in security operations by police and military units.

The airport bombing occurred at 8:24 p.m. inside the departure terminal, an airport official said.

"There was a bomb ... in the airport, close to the check-in counter," the official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

At about the same time, several people were wounded when a bomb went off in front of the city's Carrefour store, part of a French-owned chain, Suraphol said.

A third bomb was planted in a motorcycle and detonated outside a hotel in Songkhla city, near Hat Yai and along the coast of the Gulf of Thailand, he added. There were no injuries.

Pairote Warachit, deputy director of Hat Yai hospital, said 26 of the wounded were sent to his hospital. Most seriously injured and three were listed in critical condition.

Thirteen others were sent to Songkhla Nakkarin Hospital in Songkhla town, while three other hospitals in the region also received an unknown number of casualties from the blasts, he said.

Among the seriously wounded was a girl of 8 or 10, while a man of about 50 had one leg blown off and another leg nearly severed. A woman in was also in critical condition from the blast outside the supermarket, the doctor said.

Carrefour is a retail chain heavyweight in Thailand and has dozens of outlets across the kingdom.

The managing director of the Airports Authority of Thailand, Bancha Patanaporn, insisted the airport had not closed, noting that two flights to Bangkok, the last flights of the night, were due to depart after delays.

Bancha said he did not know if foreigners were among the casualties. *AFP*

Bird flu has cost Asia $8-$12B

HONG KONG—The bird flu outbreak in Asia has already cost the region about US$8-$12 billion and is intensifying pressure for tighter biosecurity, a report by investment bank CLSA says.

In the report, titled "One flu over the chicken's nest: Is a killer bird flu pandemic upon us?" CLSA noted that investors had not focused on the disease even though it had devastated the agri-industries of several Asian countries.

The H5N1 strain of avian influenza, which can jump from birds to humans, has killed 49 people since 2003, 16 since the disease erupted anew in December.

The World Health Organization has issued repeated warnings in recent months about the increasing risk of a global influenza pandemic emerging from the bird flu crisis in Asia.

CLSA said it was difficult to assign a probability or timetable for a pandemic but the epicenter would likely be Thailand, Vietnam or China.

The economies of Hong Kong, Singapore and China would be hit hardest initially by a pandemic, based on healthcare expenditure and tourist arrivals per capita and total trade divided by gross domestic product.

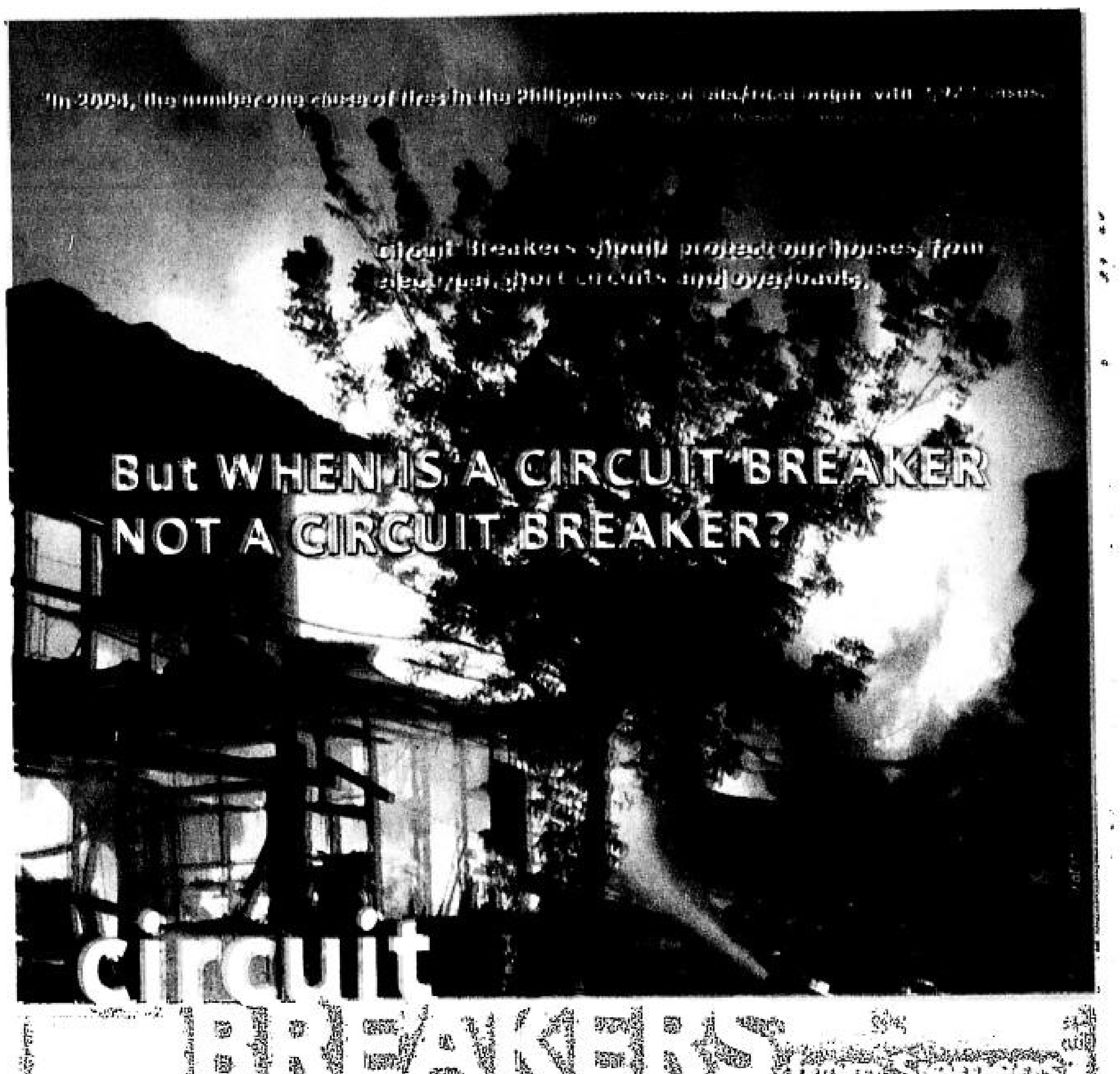
However, as those countries had greater resources to combat the disease they may suffer fewer fatalities than poorer areas, the report said.

"It is presumed that the economic consequences for Asia and the rest of the world will be more severe if the epicenter for the initial outbreaks were in southern China as opposed to Vietnam or Thailand," the report said.

The report was commissioned by US-based Bio Economic Research Associates.

The spread of the virus among poultry has proved extremely difficult to stamp out in Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia.

North Korea recently reported cases among poultry, prompting China and South Korea to tighten quarantine controls on their borders with the Stalinist state. *Reuters*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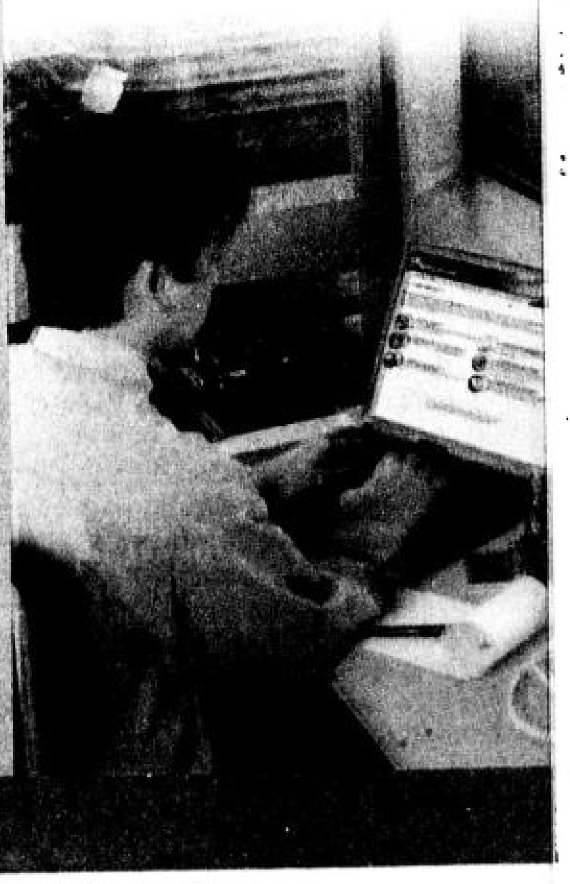

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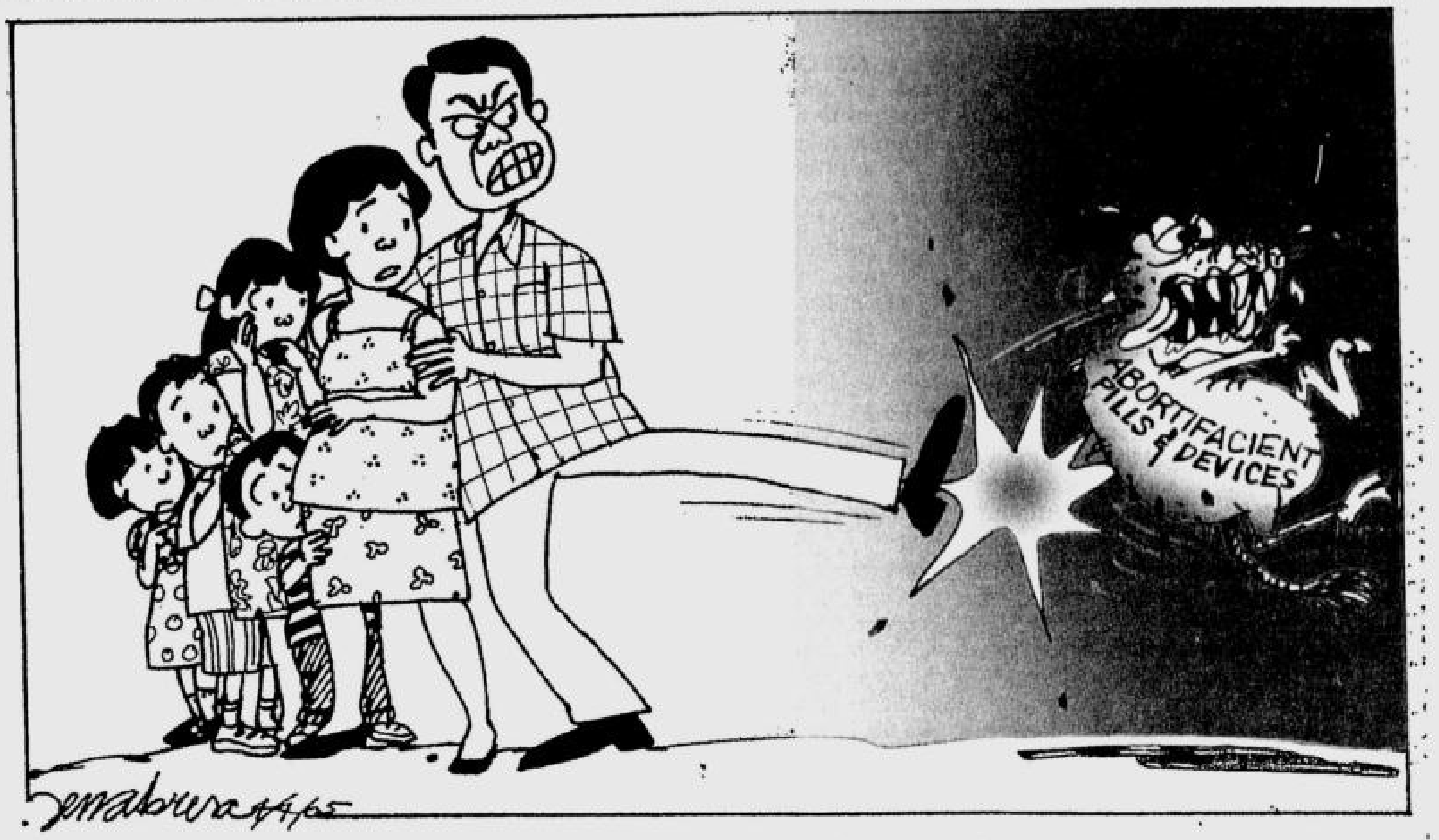


The next pope

EDITORIAL

POPE JOHN Paul II, hailed as one of the greatest moral and spiritual leaders of the last 100 years, will be, as the American expression has it, "one tough act to follow." And so the College of Cardinals, which will meet in a conclave sometime in the next two weeks, will face a difficult decision in choosing his successor.

They will have to decide, for instance, whether to elect another non-Italian pontiff or choose one from the Italian "inner circle." But it is said that one of the minimal qualifications for a pope is that he should be fluent in Italian, the lingua franca of the Church.

Should he be, like John Paul II, a doctrinaire conservative whose views on moral issues hark back to the Middle Ages or a liberal reformer like John XXIII who will let into the Church once more the refreshing winds of change that came in the wake of Vatican Council II?

Should he be a strict, authoritarian manager of the Church bureaucracy or a visionary with fresh ideas for revitalizing a Church that has been wracked with dissension, tainted with sex abuse scandals and marked by an alarming drop in attendance at Mass in recent years?

Should the next pope come from the First or Third World? Many in the Third World think that it is time the numbers of the Catholics in their sector were recognized and honored with the election of a pope from Latin America, Africa or Asia.

Should he be a young cardinal who will serve a long papacy, approximating the 26 years of John Paul II, or an old one who will serve as some sort of "transitional pope"?

Australian writer Morris L. West, author of "Shoes of the Fisherman," said that recently, when the matter of the Pope's successor was discussed, someone said, "What they're looking for is Jesus Christ on a good day." That is an almost impossible condition; not even St. Francis of Assisi who was called the closest image of Jesus, came up to his standards.

We pray that when the cardinals meet in conclave, they will be blessed with divine grace and choose a successor to Pope John Paul II who will be another influential moral and spiritual leader and lead a Church that will be responsive to the challenges of the 21st century.

One of the biggest challenges that the next pope will face is holding the Catholic Church together. He will have to be a healer and reconciler, one who will be able to unite once again a church wracked by dissension and weakened by a loss of credibility.

Catholic writer and academic John Cornwall, author of a biography of John Paul II, said that his successor "will inherit a dysfunctional Church fraught with problems… A progressive pope, a papal Mikhail Gorbachev, could find himself presiding over a sudden and disastrous schism as conservatives refuse to accept the authenticity of progressive reforms."

Therein lies a dilemma for the next pontiff: he could institute liberal reforms and displease the conservatives who adhere to theological and moral orthodoxy or cozy up to the conservatives and risk an exodus of liberals who find the Church too orthodox, too calcified to be responsive to the needs and challenges of the 21st century.

Pope John Paul II held and defended the conservative line on such issues as birth control, abortion, homosexuality, divorce, the ordination of women and the celibacy of priests. Will the next pope continue to take the same positions?

The eminent theologian Hans Kung said that Pope John Paul II was partially responsible for mass poverty and suffering because of his stand on birth control and explosive population growth. The new pope will have to take a stand on this issue.

Pope John Paul II opposed the use of condoms in fighting AIDS which was a logical consequence of the Church's condemnation of the use of artificial methods of birth control. But can the Church turn a blind eye to the havoc that AIDS is wreaking in Africa and other parts of the world? The new pope will have to come up with a reasonable stand on this health and moral issue.

The successor of John Paul will face major problems and daunting ethical issues. Shortly after his election, he will retire to the Room of Tears where he will don the white cassock that, Morris West said, "will feel like the weight of the whole world on his shoulders." He will have to resolve many difficult moral issues. He will not only be the spiritual shepherd of his flock of more than one billion; if he continues in the footsteps of John Paul, he will have to be a moral leader and icon of the entire world.

In one ear, out the other

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"WHAT did you go out to see? A reed shaken in the wind?" These ancient questions came to mind as I watched people the world over gather in churches, mosques, temples or synagogues to remember John Paul II.

This Pope differed from the traditional compassionate but remote pontiffs, New York Times Robert McFadden wrote. John Paul was "complex, schooled in confrontation, theologically intransigent but deftly politic, full of wit and expressive love…His luminous pontificate captivated much of humanity by sheer force of personality" and reshaped his Church "with a heroic vision of a combative, disciplined Catholicism."

Whether addressing dictators, landed elites or the youth, he "spoke the truth to power," as prophets did, the INQUIRER editorial noted. With a candor reminiscent of John the Baptist telling off Herod, this John told Ferdinand Marcos to his face: "Government cannot claim to serve the common good when human rights are not safeguarded."

Respect for human dignity that John Paul underscored in his Philippine visits is even more relevant today. In Cebu and Davao, *esquadrones de la muerte* summarily murder "criminals," and this is justified by officials as ensuring peace and order. The poor find redress for their grievances, in official channels controlled by elites.

The Abu Sayyaf's Khadaffy Janjalani vows to unleash more terror attacks. Contrast that with John Paul's address to Muslims in Davao City on his first Philippine visit:

"We are brothers in God, who created us and whom we are trying to reach, in our own ways… Your book gives God the very beautiful name of al-Rahman while the Bible calls him al-Rahum, the Merciful One.

"Are you not brothers of Christians in this great country, also through the bonds of nationality, history, geography, culture and hope for a better future you are building up together… A (peaceful)society is built on dialogue and I earnestly encourage its extension.

"Your Christian brothers need you and need your love… And the whole world needs to see fraternal coexistence between Christians and Muslims in a modern, believing and peaceful Philippines."

Concern for the deprived was a theme that John Paul stressed everywhere, from Baclaran, Tala Leprosarium, Santo Tomas, Quezon Memorial Circle, Cebu, Albay to Araneta Coliseum.

This preferential option for the poor is even more relevant today when, as Asian Development Bank notes, "there were four million poor people (in 15 years)."

"Defending the human dignity of the poor and their hope for a human future is not a luxury for the Church," he declared in Tondo. "It is her duty, because it is God who wishes all human beings to live in accordance with the dignity He bestowed on them…

"The way to your total liberation is not the way of violence, class struggle or hate but love, brotherhood and peaceful solidarity"

Switching to the dialect, as was his practice, the Pope then said, "*Jesus na aking kapatid, dulutan mo ang aking mata…ikaw Poon makikilala sa taong mapagkumbaba* ("Jesus, my brother, open my eyes to know you in the humble man that I see)."

He didn't water down that message in Bacolod City. There, the word "*sacada*" meant beggared migrant worker, a tattered symbol of oppression. "This is war," a sugar haciendero fumed when the Pope declared: "Land is a gift of God for the benefit of all… It is not admissible that the benefits it produces serve only a limited number of people while the vast majority are excluded from the benefits the land yields… The right of ownership, legitimate in itself, cannot be separated from its wider social dimensions."

Whimpers for redress of social injustice today sound in coastal communities where the moneyed monopolize access to fishing grounds. They're heard where politicians corner logging permits and own the chain saws.

Tourist-clogged Boracay offers the recent—and obscene—example of wealth trampling on human rights that John Paul denounced in Baguio's Burnham Park: "The indigenous people of this beautiful (land) represent a rich diversity of cultures…. May your land and your worthy family traditions be protected, preserved and enriched."

That call fell on deaf ears. The Catholic bishops' indigenous peoples commission has protested the continued slicing by land claimants into an Ati settlement with barbed wires. Flaunting of protection offered by the Indigenous People's Act (RA 8371) has been spurred by President Macapagal-Arroyo's folded arms.

Joseph Estrada flaunted *kabits* (mistresses) in a culture that vested power with concubines. The Pope met that head-on when, in Cebu City, he declared:

"The selfish pursuit of pleasure, sexual permissiveness and the fear of a permanent commitment are destructive forces… A family where prayer, loving support and constant formation in the faith are of constant concern will bring untold benefits…"

At the Luneta, John Paul beatified 18 martyrs, including a young Chinoy from Binondo, Lorenzo Ruiz. Son of a Chinese father and a Filipina mother, Ruiz who was later to be canonized as the first Filipino saint served in the St. Gabriel parish church.

"I, too, have come from the city of the martyrs Peter and Paul to this capital city to speak to you about the meaning of one's existence," the Pope said. Ruiz's life "reminds us that to die for the faith is a gift for some; to live the faith is a call for all."

John Paul responded to that call with the deeds that were his life, as millions of grieving people the world over attest. But have his words slipped out our other ear unheeded?

* * *

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

People

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THAT was the one thing I recalled, too, the huge crowds that turned out to greet the Pope when he visited this country in 1995. Which was more than turned out to greet rock stars. You could sense a genuine affection for him in that throng. He was a father to Filipinos in more than a titular or symbolic sense. He was so in the concern he showed for a people caught in the grip of a new Diaspora.

The other thing I recalled was the lack in his entourage of dogs held on leash by Hollywood-heavies-types sniffing other people's balls. A typical sight at the Naia when US officials descended upon the natives to see for themselves how well their wishes were being carried out, at that time with respect to the Visiting Forces Agreement in particular. The Pope traveled simply. Of course, he had his security, but they weren't obtrusive, citing as their excuse for being overbearing that they were just doing their jobs, which is pissing off people.

Call it courage or faith, but the Pope didn't particularly fear for his life, notwithstanding that a Turkish extremist had shot and wounded him in 1981. (He subsequently visited the fellow, who is serving a life sentence in Italy, and forgave him; the man thenceforth called him "brother.") Or far more than that, he didn't fear for his life, he loved people too much to even think about it. Though he had taken the most controversial positions on world affairs, he was loved and respected, not hated and feared. He reached out to crowds, and the crowds reached out to him.

I heard analysts on CNN and BBC say the next pope would have a hard act to follow, John Paul II being one of the handful of pontiffs through two millennia to have left a deep imprint on the world. He was the Great Communicator, not Ronald Reagan, who merely had the talent for sounding sincere when he read Peggy Noonan's speeches. He possessed "charism," which is where the word "charisma" comes from. Even atheists who came face to face with him claimed afterward that they had a most moving experience, if not actually caught a glimpse of the divine.

My own sense though is that that charism sprang from more than a personal gift; it sprang from a depth of conviction. This was a pope who, like Mother Teresa, genuinely loved people. He didn't see people as flock and unbelievers, as Christians and non-Christians, as faithful and faithless, he saw them as flesh and blood. They were not a faceless mass to be swayed to his beliefs, they were individuals with faces who were capable of laughing and grieving, of bleeding and dying. Seemingly the simplest thing in the world, that way of looking at the world has proven revolutionary in the extreme. Not unlike Jesus Christ preaching love in a time of hate, a seemingly simple, even naïve, idea that has survived the ages.

Pope John Paul II was remarkably consistent in his view of the human being as being at the center of things, and his demand that he be put back at the center of things. It is a view that caused him to oppose three seemingly unshakeable bedrocks of orthodoxy, and shaken them to their roots.

The first is the idea of faithful against infidels, a view shared by fundamentalists of other religions, which has caused the slaughter of millions. The Pope apologized for it some years ago, the murder and mayhem wrought by the Church over the centuries. You take other people as "outsiders" or "infidels," you remove their humanity and reduce them to demons you are commanded by God to destroy. No, the Pope's effort to reach out to other faiths wasn't just a personal whim or modernist policy, he believed in it fully.

The second is the idea of people as automatons carrying out the decree of history in lieu of God. That was communism, an idea he fought equally ardently, which contributed mightily to its fall. Much has been said of his experience with the Church being persecuted in Poland, which was the source of his inspiration there. Doubtless, that is true. But more than that, what probably drove him on was the sense of oppression he must have felt at the sight of people's faces disappearing completely in regimes that liked to put "people" in their names.

The last is the idea of freedom-fighters, led by George W. Bush, pitting themselves against terrorists, who are everyone who oppose them. "Terrorist" is the modern-day equivalent of "infidel" and "enemy of the people." It makes the human being disappear and in its place stands an entity you are free to mutilate, humiliate and kill. Beth Osborne Daponte, who worked for the Census Bureau, reported in 2003 that the Gulf War and the invasion of Iraq have thus far killed 13,000 civilians directly (by Allied forces) and 70,000 civilians indirectly (in war-related damage to medical facilities and supplies). The elder Bush tried to fire Osborne, but she was upheld by the scientific community and held on to her job. The dead, however, remain just numbers today, or "collateral damage," as the term goes, not the fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, such as the ones you have today.

Those things the Pope fought against adamantly and with a depth of conviction that could only have come from the heart. He loved people because he saw people, which is more than could be said for most of today's world leaders. He has been described as a Pope who helped to bring back morality to world affairs, but what does that mean really but putting back the human being at the center of human life? If there is any legacy of the Pope I personally value, it is that. It is the simple and awesome idea that there are no "outsiders" in the human race, we have a common plight and destiny on this planet.

I am sure St. Peter, the person he succeeded after 2,000 years, will meet him at the gate with open arms.

Rome OFWs mourn passing of 'migrant' Pope

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WORLD leaders are trying to outdo one another in paying tribute to the late Pope John Paul II. Reports say they are preparing to attend his funeral later this week in Rome. In Manila Sunday evening, some 1,500 members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), dubbed the "United Nations of Parliaments," gathered from all corners of the globe at the PICC on Roxas Boulevard to commence the 112th IPU Assembly. But before anything else, the host, Senate President Franklin Drilon, who was elected assembly president, asked the delegates to observe a minute of silent prayer "in memory of the great leader of the world's 1.1 billion Catholics." He paid tribute to John Paul II as "a man of peace who will always be remembered for his life-long fight for human dignity and freedom, as well as his love for the poor."

* * *

Also speaking at the assembly, Speaker Jose de Venecia revived the proposal of the Association of Asian Parliaments to put up an Asian Monetary Fund to deal with financial crises similar to that which beset East Asia in the second half of 1997. JDV also recalled his own proposal, which was backed up by the Arroyo administration and sponsored in the United Nations by the Philippines and Iran, to promote a global interfaith dialogue in order to combat international terrorism. JDV admitted that his inspiration for that "inter-faith council," since then unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly, was none other than the Pope. JDV stressed that John Paul II preached and practiced ecumenism, being the only Pope in history to visit a Jewish synagogue and a mosque, and to reach out to the Protestant branch of the Christian faith.

* * *

As I said yesterday, everyone seems to have his own pool of memories of the Pope. At a private dinner hosted for him by JDV after the IPU opening, Cambodia's Prince Norodom Ranariddh recalled that a few years earlier he paid a call on the Pope and was announced by the protocol official as "Prince Ranariddh from the Philippines." The Pope, recalled the Prince, said nothing, but his eyes were twinkling. In their conversation, the Pope recalled to how he enjoyed the visit a year earlier of his father, King Norodom Sihanouk. Ranariddh said this was his way of telling everyone that he was aware of the mistake, without embarrassing anybody. Little vignettes like those have made the man so loved worldwide.

* * *

At the same dinner, the guests naturally asked Pietro Sebastiani, a special adviser to the president of the Italian Parliament, who would be the next pope. Will it be an Italian?

Sebastiani carefully said that his personal opinion was that Islam will continue to be a major factor in the world stage, and so it's very important that the next pope be fully conversant with this as it impacts on the relationship with Christianity. He added that it would be good if the papacy would again be occupied by an Italian, noting that, for one thing, Italy has its own Muslim population in the south. But Sebastiani admitted that the field is now much more open to non-Italians, so that it wouldn't be surprising if the position goes to an "outsider." He noted that during the election of John Paul II, there were about 90 cardinals and a little over 30 of them were Italians, but the papacy went to a Pole. Today there are 117 cardinals, but only 20 are Italians.

* * *

Many news stories have played up the Pope's closeness to the Filipinos, a feeling that is mutual. After visiting the country twice, he wanted to come once more for the World Family Congress three or four years ago but his health was already beginning to fail. The Pope always drew strength from the fact that in Italy it's the Pinoys who fill the churches on Sundays and participate in parish work such as singing during Masses. In recognition of this, he gave the OFWs their own parish in the Basilica of Santa Pudenziana. This church was built over the ancient ruins of the house of the Roman senator Pudentius, who welcomed the first Pope, St. Peter, in Rome and became one of the earliest converts to Christianity. The Pinoys are preparing a requiem Mass there for John Paul II once Vatican funeral plans are finalized.

* * *

A Jesuit friend working on his doctorate in Rome, Fr. Joe Quilong-quilong of Cebu, sent me a text message to say he celebrated Mass last Sunday at the Church of San Alfonso where the original icon of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help is venerated. He reported that most of the Filipinos were crying over the death of the Pope announced just hours earlier. The OFWs felt orphaned, he said, because they regarded John Paul II as a "migrant" like themselves, having been the first non-Italian to be elected pope after 455 years of Italian primacy at the Vatican.

* * *

The death of John Paul II sidelined all other issues, including the VAT bill and the scams at the PNB Sucat branch. Since my series came out detailing the cams and the indifference of the PNB management toward the victims, some of them poor OFWs, many have come out with their own stories. One was the Hinterland Freightliners Inc., which claims to have been victimized by the same former PNB branch manager who allegedly colluded with some key Parañaque officials. I'll have details of this case soon. Suffice it to say that the individual victims of manipulation and fraud have banded together. This morning, they will meet with the Bantay Katarungan group of former Senate President Jovito Salonga, who has taken pity on them and promised to help them get justice.

By the way, NGO leader and feminist Remmy Rikken alerted me about a friend of hers who was also victimized in the same manner, but in another bank. Mused Remmy: "Maybe these guys are in touch with each other." More of this later.

Belief, faith and the Pope

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT SEEMS churlish and uncharitable, I know, to bring up, so soon after the Pope's death, the contradictions of his papacy. But I don't think it would offend too many people to say that while at the human level he was indeed everything that people offer up in praise—a great communicator, indefatigable shepherd, defender of the faith and of Church discipline, champion of the oppressed and of the poor, caring, humane, and human—in many ways his papacy was a disappointment.

He had raised hopes of taking the Roman Catholic Church even further than his predecessors, the beloved Pope John XXIII, Pope Paul VI and even Pope John Paul I, had done to bring the Church in step with the 20th century. And yet, despite the refreshing winds of change he ushered with his vigorous pastoral style and proclivity for travel, in the latter half of his papacy John Paul II brought the changes to a screeching halt. He seemed determined, instead, to dismiss any form of dissent, imposing a doctrinal discipline that could be harsh, especially when it came to questions on the role of women in the Church and in Church history.

Is speaking of the failings and weaknesses of the Pope in his role as head of the Church denigrating him and smearing his memory? I think honesty and truth-telling demand we speak the facts as we see them. In the same way that challenging the rules and commands, the certainties and assertions of the authorities, even of the Church, is not subversion or rejection, but rather substantial and reasoned dissent aired out of a love for the institution.

It is entirely possible for people who have been critical of the Wojtyla papacy to mourn him personally and privately, while publicly pointing out how much more he could have done. And for comfort in these times of contradiction, we can turn to the words of Joan Chittister, noted author and lecturer and Benedictine religious, who writes profoundly of faith and spirituality in her book "In Search of Belief," excerpts from which I reprint below.

* * *

WHAT has for long years been considered "dissent" in the churches by those who want more answers than questions, more clerical authority than spiritual investment may not be real dissent at all... They are not arguing against the need for a spiritual life. They are not denying God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit. They are not ridiculing religion and going away. On the contrary. People currently considered "excommunicated" or "suspect" or "heretical" or "smorgasbord" believers are, in many ways, among the most intense Christians of our time... They care about (the church) and call it to be its truest self. They question it, not to undermine it, but to strengthen it. They call for new ways of being church together. They do not dismiss the need for the spiritual life. They crave it. What's more, they look for it in their churches. But they crave more than ritual. They crave meaning. They look for more than salvation. They look for authenticity and the integrity of the faith.

Women, in particular, find themselves with theological questions that will not go away and immerse themselves in the struggle to bring the churches to be what churches say they are... These men and women do not abandon the spiritual life, however distant their association with the churches that feel so distant from them. If anything, they try harder to provide for themselves the kind of fullness of the spiritual life their churches fail to provide or even deny, for whatever reason. They reach out everywhere to everything that will provide new insights, new awareness of the presence of God.

* * *

THE WOMEN join women's spirituality groups and look for books that give them hope and teach their daughters what they themselves did not know about the gifts and graces and great good works of the women who went before them—despite eons of theological and legal restrictions arrayed against them. Men make retreats and find their way to Bible study groups and become involved in community service projects to find in the gospel what is too often lacking in the institution. Indeed, the reality is that men and women with new questions about old issues and old questions about new issues are calling the churches to be more intent on spirituality and less intent on catechisms than ever before... They do not question because they reject the Church. They question the Church because they love it. They question because they seek a spiritual life, with or without an institution, and even outside of it if being in it is what makes the spiritual life impossible for them.

* * *

WHATEVER the struggle to come to terms with the questions of an age, the truth is that there is no putting down the notion of belief. "What do you believe?" I asked the new man in a discussion group. "I don't really believe in anything much anymore," he said, and then went on to tell me about the business he was starting... He clearly believed in the god of money. "What do you believe?" I asked a younger man..."I'm taking a Bible study course," he said. "I believe that Americans are God's special people and that the man is supposed to be the head of the family." I watched him giving his wife orders as we talked. He sat, waiting to be served his supper, while she ran after two small children. His belief, obviously, was in himself and the god of entitlements. "What do you believe?" I asked a woman who had left the Church. "I believe that God made women to have the same abilities and opportunities as men have, and I'm not going to be part of anything that says otherwise." The situation made the point: Everybody believes in something... Whatever we believe at the deepest center of our being determines what we ourselves become, even when we say we believe in something else.

Going, going, gone...

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

BEING a tropical country with fantastic bio-diversity, it was not surprising that the colonial Spaniards parceled off some land outside Intramuros for a botanical garden. There had been an earlier one in Malate in the late 18th century, with a monument to a naturalist called Pineda who had died in the process of studying our flora, but that had long disappeared together with his memorial. Still we were the first country in Asia to have a botanical garden.

Our second colonizers were out to prove that they could build a grand city and had their most renowned architect of the time, Daniel Burnham, brought over to design a plan—which he did, and if you ever have the chance take a look at it, you would see what a wealth of parks we would have had if it had been followed. The area beside City Hall was called Mehan Gardens for the man who continued its development.

Prior to the Spaniards and Americans, of course, the area was part of Rajah Matanda and Soliman's kingdoms, but it has never really been rigorously excavated and studied so that we have never discovered the cemetery of those ancestors unlike that of the kingdom of Lamayan in Sta. Ana which in the 1960s yielded a treasure trove of fantastic porcelain artifacts.

Shortly after the start of his second term, the present mayor of Manila announced that he intended to build his City College on the grounds of Mehan Gardens, thus eliminating once and for all the open space and the city's history. (As the Italians would say, "*senza respeto.*") Using the PNB building on Escolta for the purpose, which was his predecessor's idea, wasn't good enough obviously. But you know how it is in this country, of course. You've lived here long enough to realize that no matter how expedient your predecessor's plan, your ego demands that you destroy what he started and invent the wheel all over again. Perhaps the vice mayor was chaffing all those years under Mayor Alfredo Lim's heel and could now claim his revenge by undoing everything the other did. Politicians' pettiness can be mind-boggling. (Remember the City Museum in the Army & Navy Club that is now the private preserve of some Chinese restaurant owner? That's gone, too.)

Not satisfied with the environmental degradation he caused with his construction of Park n Ride in part of Mehan, the mayor decided to convert another open space, Arroceros Park, into a dorm for teachers. The reason given by the mayor is that Manila has no other properties to build on. One wonders then from whom Mega-World bought their rumored two-hectare property beside Arroceros Park to construct a condominium. Since the city was using the land, one imagines it belonged to the city, right?

The thing about kingpins around here is that they will do exactly what they feel like doing and no one can stop them. The mayor of a city is its Lord and Master, with a tradition dating all the way back to Medieval Europe and the feudal system that is so enshrined in this land that all you can do is shrug your shoulders. I mean let's face it. Manila is supposedly the capital of the country and yet it is treated just like any other city by the national government.

And the mayor has the temerity to state that "it is my duty and responsibility that such undertaking is finished." One is tempted to reply, in the same manner that he "finished" the Jai-Alai which, as you know, he was in such a hurry to demolish because he had the money and it was imperative that there be a new hall of justice. That was what six years ago, but all there is to show now is a hole in the ground. No Hall of Justice, no landmark building.

Oddly enough in all these, the only one putting up any kind of protest against this affront to the city's history is Regina Paterno and her Winner Foundation. She had signed a contract with then Mayor Lim to develop the Arroceros property as a park, which Atienza now wants to demolish so he can build his dorm. Such a pity that the lady has no champion among the esteemed gentlemen of the Senate or the House. Unfortunately, we may be feudal but we have no knights in shining armor. As one of the senators said, they have other more lofty concerns than restoring the once ever loyal City of Manila as the Pearl of the Orient.

Perhaps everyone else has stopped believing in Manila, having lived so long with old, worn-out, ugly places that we have become anesthetized to their condition. Composed of formless places without order, beauty or reason, with no visible respect for either people or the land, the mayor's idea of environmental aesthetics is calculated in terms of rentable space. (Take a look at the boulevard. Your sunset has been blocked off by permanent structures. You could eat your heart out and compare it to La Castellana in Madrid, but why torture yourself?)

But then the Filipino has stopped dreaming of greatness. Have you ever heard any of your officials speak about a great city? Have they expressed an interest in landmark buildings (there's Paco Station hanging by a thread) that carry with them a sense of history? Do they esteem the last of the Belle Époque buildings of the city (Luneta Hotel)? And let's not bring up Manila Hotel, unless you want me to have a real fit.

Thus in one fell swoop, Lito Atienza will go down in Manila's history as the mayor who managed all by his lonesome to obliterate three landmarks during his tenure: the Jai-Alai building, Mehan Gardens and Arroceros Park.

What can I say? Congratulations?

No escape

YOUNG BLOOD

Tinay Kabiling

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

JUST like you, I was raised in a country where people are so unbelievably poor they have to settle for worms and rats. Like millions of other Filipinos, I live in a place where some people can also be seen eating worms and rats. The difference is that the latter gets a whopping $50,000 to $100,000 for doing so. For us, it's survival; for them, it's just entertainment.

I am like your hard-working father, your courageous mother, or your diligent cousin. I am like your industrious wife, your caring husband, your high school friend, or your next-door neighbor. I am the one of many thousands of struggling Filipinos who had no choice but to jump from the sinking ship called the Philippines.

I am disturbed that Filipinos have no choice but to eat the detestable just to survive or get through the day. Many Filipinos live in incredibly miserable conditions. And this situation rankles even more now that I am in a place where people win huge amounts of money for doing such things. It is ironic, disturbing, unreal. Welcome to the land of the free, the land of milk and honey, the land of opportunities.

I recently graduated from college and yet I am among those desperate Filipinos forced to flee the country. Like my father who has been working in Washington, D.C. for the past two years, the time eventually came when I had to pack up my things and head for the United States to earn the kind of money that is almost impossible to earn in the Philippines.

As I walk the streets of DC, I find myself awestruck. I can't help but be amazed at how different everything is. It's like being in a movie. Tall men in coat-and-tie with briefcases hurrying to get somewhere. Fantastic historic architecture surrounding everyone. Women in fur coats hailing a cab. The sound of sirens and the sight of limousines being escorted by motorcycles. Pedestrian stoplights. Musicians playing on the sidewalk. Tourists. Subways. Joggers with their dogs. I am far away from the horrid realities of the Philippines. But being thousands of miles away does not prevent me from feeling the poignant truth about where I truly belong.

No matter how easy it may seem to earn money here, the image of the children begging in front of a 7-11 store on Taft Avenue flashes in my mind. The vision of a family of 12 living in a tiny home built of cardboard in Guadalupe Viejo constantly infiltrates my consciousness. The picture of a man who went crazy on the sidewalk because he had gone hungry for too long creeps into my memory. The thought of people jumping from bridges and billboards out of sheer frustration overwhelms me.

Suddenly, I no longer felt like I have escaped. I no longer felt privileged. I felt deeply disturbed. Instead of jumping for joy, I wonder why I am here while Filipinos back home continue to suffer and endure the effects of a corrupt and damaged system of governance. All of a sudden, I feel that man who went crazy.

Like your hard-working father, your courageous mother, or your diligent cousin. Like your industrious wife, your caring husband, your high school friend, or your next-door neighbor, we all continue to hope for nothing but the best for our family and for our country.

As we go home and watch on US TV stations the oddest forms of entertainment, we are always struck by the disquieting contrast between our way of life and theirs. Deep in our hearts we affirm our responsibility to help that street children or that person who wants to jump off the bridge. Now that I realize my great responsibility to make things better for my family and for the Philippines, I am left with the curse of disturbing thoughts and the power to just hope and hope and hope...

Tinay Kabiling, 20, finished her Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Communication at De La Salle University, Manila.

Unfortunate events

Tito Lyndon Llemos

I FEEL tired.

Staying in the public sector is no mean feat. The demand of government work is enough to beat you to submission. Contrary to popular belief, the government employees who are slackers at work constitute a very small minority. There is still a big number of civil servants who want to stick it out, however deplorable their situation may be. Their dedication is an indication that we are still far from abysmal depths.

However, when discussions turn to their salaries, the political situation or the economy, my flickering hope fades further. We hardly find any news that lifts our spirits nowadays. It is no surprise that if you ask anybody if he would prefer to live or at least work outside of this country, you receive a positive reply. An officemate left for Paris a few days ago. Some of my friends are in England or Montreal. Their stories of white Christmases and gallivanting in European countries are tempting enough for me to consider following in their footsteps.

This is the Filipino Diaspora, some say. We are simply everywhere. We are the nurses in London, the engineers in the Middle East, the care givers in Canada, the entertainers in Japan, the teachers in Texas. Our courage to venture into foreign places rivals that of Marco Polo and could put Magellan to shame.

Our standards of living is slipping farther down. The government seems incapable of solving the fiscal crisis, bridging the wide gap between the rich and the poor, or stopping graft and corruption. There is too much politicking, stemming from our perverted understanding of freedom and democracy.

The House of Representatives has voted to raise the value-added tax to 12 percent. Administration lawmakers simply crushed the resistance in the House. But can we really say that the majority always works for the greater good? Or was this another example of the tyranny of the majority?

Who was it who said that in life only two things are certain—death and taxes? It seems that we cannot escape paying taxes—unless we are a manufacturer of cigarettes or liquor or we own airplanes and banks.

These are just some of the things that drive many of us out of this country or drive us nuts. The list can extend to kingdom come.

With this series of unfortunate events, if I may borrow the title of Jim Carrey's latest movie, it's as if hell has opened its flood gates and released a bad spell.

Shall we now abandon ship?

Tito Lyndon Llemos, 27, is a project development officer of the Department of Social Welfare and Development-National Capital Region.

The question: to act or not to act on something blatantly wrong

CONRADO de Quiros' column, "Trojan Horse," (PDI, 3/2/05) lumped the five "anti-pornography" bills pending in the House of Representatives as clear and present danger to press freedom.

I can only speak for House Bill No. 445 which I am sponsoring. I want to make this clear: I have always been a staunch believer of press freedom. I would never want my proposal to become part of the Trojan Horse of fascism De Quiros so abhors.

I respect his views on this issue. His beautiful prose is much too convincing to ignore. However, I hope he'll also find time to read our proposition. Without meaning to sound holier-than-thou and faultless, let me say it is a fact some things are so blatantly evil that doing nothing against them will strip us of our humanity. This, I believe, is the case with smut tabloids.

Consider the following:

1. These materials are being sold by sidewalk vendors in a "very open" way. If you happened to see your young daughter or son looking at the photographs and reading the stories contained in these tabloids, would you say to them those are artistic images of the human body?

2. My bill lists eight sexual acts considered lewd if they appear as photographs in tabloids. As soon as I receive a written position from De Quiros, with the divergent view that they are not so under such circumstance, I am more than willing to withdraw my proposed law.

3. As they often say there is a thin line between what is art and what is obscene. I only seek to draw a very clear definition, under the law, of what acts, photographs or stories can be considered obscene to help our law enforcers nail down peddlers of such materials.

The measure does not even seek a total ban on those materials. We firmly believe that there is always a right place for everything. Surely, we also recognize, the presence of such publications as FHM, Playboy and similar magazines of more "hardcore contents." Why not include them, you might ask.

The truth is we only want to avoid the evolution of our dailies into a smut-dominated medium of information, as well as to punish those who unscrupulously seek to profit from such tabloids. Our goal is to spare innocent and young minds, and prevent those with dirty ones, from procuring the materials as easily as they can buy P20 worth of peanuts from sidewalk vendors.

Much as De Quiros admits that the media have difficulty policing its ranks, I cannot think of a better way to keep these materials from being sold on sidewalks as if they are as harmless as plastic combs or hairclips. I would certainly appreciate suggestions.

—REP. MANUEL "WAY KURAT" E. ZAMORA, First District, Compostela Valley Province

Solve problems instead of finding fault

THE 27-HOUR prison stand-off in Camp Bagong Diwa should teach our officials important lessons. But discussions about the incident should not focus on finding fault but on addressing the weaknesses of our prison system.

We must not lose sight of the bravery of the police officers (especially the one killed and the six others wounded) who risked life and limb to end the standoff. We, as a nation, must admit the errors and move on to prevent a repeat of this embarrassing incident.

However, President Macapagal-Arroyo's order for an investigation into what went wrong should not be used by politicians as an excuse to divert their attention from important economic measures that require their immediate action.

Needless to say, the officials responsible for keeping order inside jails must be held accountable for the fiasco. Appropriate actions should be taken to send a strong signal that the Arroyo administration does not tolerate negligence.

The directive for the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology to retrain its personnel, particularly its jail guards, is a major step that should be sustained.

—KORINA JANAPIN, 25 Andres Bunsuran 2nd St., Pandi, Bulacan

Conflict of interest

AMANDO Doronila assails my "intervention" in the quarrel between Roberto R. Romulo, who holds the title of senior adviser on International Competitiveness, and Max Soliven of the Philippine Star (PDI, 03/18/05), which supposedly involves only the sole question of press freedom. He says that my criminal and administrative complaints (filed with the Ombudsman), raising the issue of conflict of interest against Romulo (a government official and head of several private corporations) is a side issue. He even implied that the complaints are meant only to pressure Romulo to drop the libel charges he filed against Soliven.

Doronila has been with the press long enough to be aware that my legal crusade against corruption and corrupt public officials has been an indispensable part of the life I have led. Revolutionists plan bloody upheavals, at the expense of many innocent lives, for the same cause. I am just doing my share through peaceful channels.

The public can forgive "over-criticism" by the press, but they cannot forgive dual allegiance of public officials at the expense of public interest.

And what are the real public issues? Lobbyists in Malacañang enjoy the benefit of both worlds, in government and the private sector. They ply their trade in the corridors of power, yet declare themselves immune from the disabilities and accountabilities attached to public office. Should the public be forever vulnerable to the tyranny of influence-peddlers in public officials' clothing, free from the limitations imposed by the Constitution and anti-graft laws?

In justifying his views, Doronila cites the very arguments of Romulo.

Romulo asserts that he is not a public official because he does not receive a salary from the government. But he admits that he was appointed by the President "[p]ursuant to the provisions of Article VII, Section 16 of the Constitution and existing laws," which covers appointments of public officials.

Moreover, under the anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act (RA No. 3019), a person is considered a public officer even if the compensation of a person be merely "nominal."

Doronila says that there is no proof that Romulo peddled influence. But under the law, the mere holding of dual functions already constitutes conflict of interest. It is not required that the public officer actually committed acts detrimental to the government. It is enough that he is in a position to do so.

In the case of Romulo, he has interfered with policies and the DTI. His office at Sikatuna Building in Makati is called the DFA-Makati. He promoted his own e-services marketing program through Digital Phils., competing with the program developed by the DTI.

Evidence of Romulo's dual functions has been submitted to the Ombudsman. Contrary to Doronila's assertions, I am not delving into hypothesis without proof.

Incidentally, how true is it that Doronila is being pushed by Romulo for appointment as ambassador to France?

—FRANCISCO CHAVEZ

Perception and reality

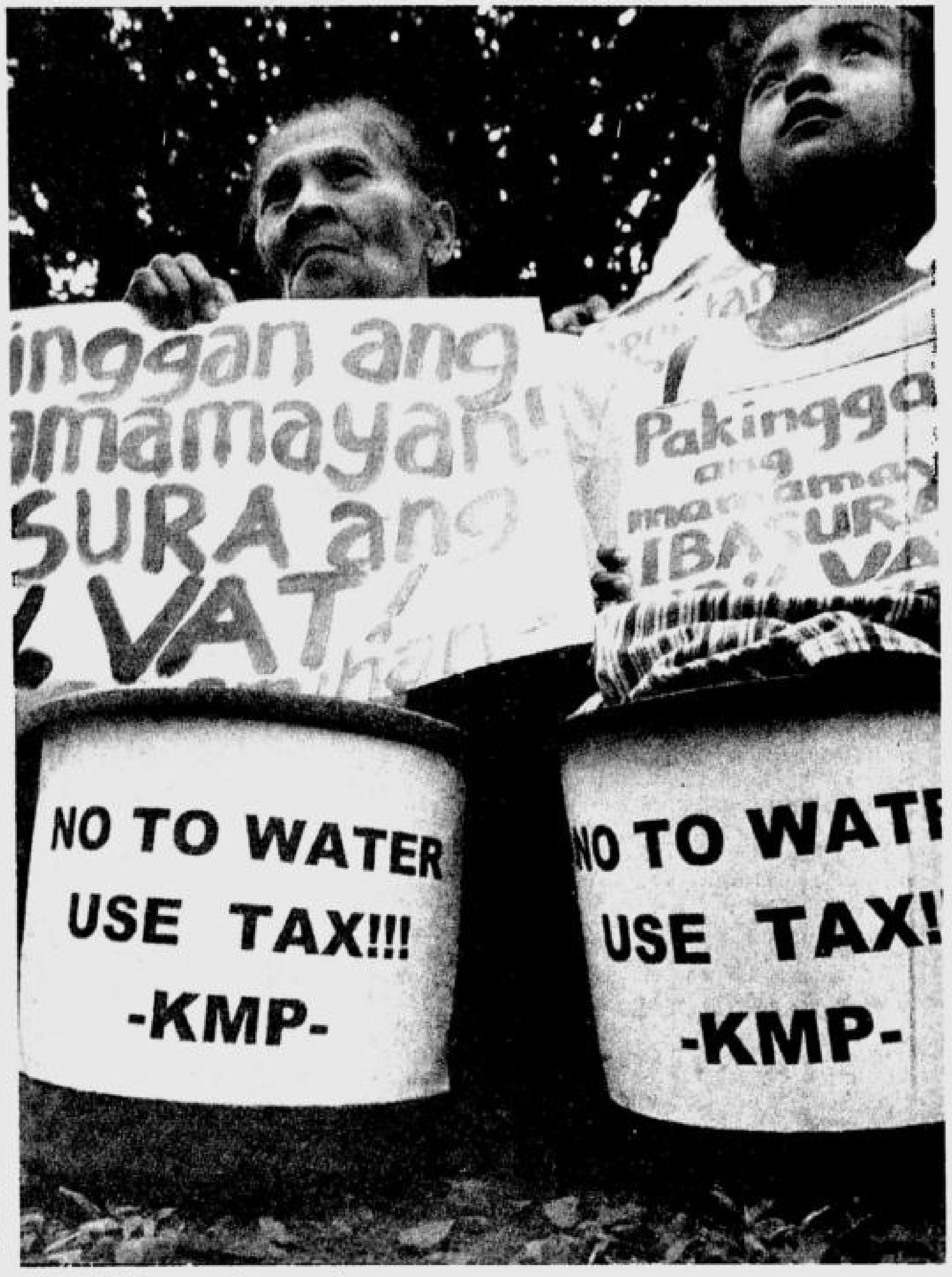
WE wonder where on earth Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan got the idea of preventing the nation's media from interviewing suspected "terrorists" and penalizing "erring" journalists and media outfits under a proposed Anti-Terrorism Bill?

Why is Adan publicly endorsing a proposal that contradicts the constitutional guarantee of press freedom and civil liberties? Why is he asking the public to bow to a policy that is unacceptable under any standard—whether journalistic, legal or moral?

No one, not even the President, and much less a military man, has the right to dictate how media should go about their responsibility of depicting current social realities. Adan, however, essentially forces media to deny this reality. The reality today is that our government endorses anti-poor policies (such as the additional value added tax) and wars (such as the US war in Iraq). The reality today is that overwhelming poverty spawns unrest in the streets and in the war-torn provinces. The reality today is those who oppose inequitable policies and fight for higher wages, land reform and human rights are threatened and killed for being so-called "terrorists," especially under the Arroyo administration.

In the interest of upholding press freedom and civil liberties, we urge the legislators to reject this provision and junk the Anti-Terrorism Bill. The real terrorists in this country have already killed many of our officials and members during the last electoral campaign season—they should not be allowed to silence our voices as well.

—CHERRY B. CLEMENTE, secretary general, Anakpawis Party List, 56 K-9 St., West Kamias, Quezon City



MILITANTS react to 'water tax.'

'Environmental payments'

THE PROPOSAL by the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) to levy taxes on water use has stirred debate. In its March 15 editorial, the Inquirer came out strongly against it. Indeed, the specter of additional tax burdens is always problematic, even made worse by a government perceived to be wasting hard-earned taxpayer's money. I, myself, seethe with rage whenever I see my paycheck, and then watch clowns masquerading as legislators and government officials inflicting themselves on us. However, this does not mean there is neither logic nor reason in asking ordinary citizens to share the burden for environmental protection.

Water has always been seen as a social good, and not an economic good. This has led to a situation wherein the perception of water being "free" and as an entitlement from nature has caused the conditions for its misuse and misallocation, not to mention abuse. Water is not a limitless resource. Potable water is increasingly becoming scarce. There is just too much water when you don't need it (as in the case of floods), and too little when it becomes a necessity (as in the case of droughts). Protecting the watersheds of this country is a right step in this direction. Unfortunately, there are not enough funds to finance this endeavor.

A reasonable "taxation system" on water, otherwise known as "environmental payments," can provide the needed funds; the charges collected can be harnessed to reforest bald mountains and conserve threatened aquifers. What we need are social and political safety nets to protect poor consumers and the integrity of environmental payments. We need social safety nets, such as providing a threshold where consumers would be exempted from paying if they consume below a certain amount, and/or they fall below a certain income level. This way, only those who can afford and those who consume too much will bear the burden.

We also need political safety nets, in the form of well-defined institutions, to ensure that the funds drawn from the payments are indeed used for environmental protection. The Philippines is home to a healthy community of environmental civil society groups that can be tapped to perform this function. Thus, the proposal of the NWRB to tax water use and consumption needs careful study, and not outright condemnation based on populist arguments.

The Inquirer should provide this balanced and fair assessment, instead of just serving as a venue to further the more convenient and popular line of a blanket revolt against taxes or any other fee levied on citizens. The Inquirer owes the country this if it wants to be consistent with its claim as a bearer of balanced news.

—ANTONIO CONTRERAS, contrerasa@dlsu.edu.ph

Biased appreciation

UPON HEARING of the death of my neighbors' 21-year-old helper because of a botched-up abortion, I am strongly compelled to write this letter.

For a newspaper that claims to have "Balanced News" as a slogan, I find the Inquirer's coverage of the "Ligtas Buntis" campaign to be completely biased. The paper's recent stories on the population issue, especially the Easter issue, Opinion section (PA16) are obviously influenced only by the opinions of Catholic Church heirarchy. The articles only show one side of the argument (the anti-contraceptive side); also, all the statistics cited in those articles are not based on any scientific merit.

This is journalistically irresponsible and detrimental not only to the rights of women but also to the integrity of Philippine journalism as a whole. And for a newspaper whose editor in chief is a woman, I am surprised that such a slant can be taken.

To stop the government from teaching our fellow countrymen and women about contraception (its benefits as well as its evils) is to condemn them to ignorance and to deprive them of the right to plan their own lives and families. Your political cartoon last Saturday showed Jesus Christ overcoming the culture of death that plagues this nation. But your coverage of Ligtas Buntis proves otherwise. To stop a woman from learning about contraception is to condemn her to having an illegal (and possibly lethal) abortion as her only alternative.

Ignorance killed my neighbors' 21-year-old helper. And to the resigned employee of the Department of Health-Eastern Visayas, "Bring the battle on." You don't have as many followers as you think.

—CARLOS P. CELDRAN, celdrantours@hotmail.com

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

INQBOX

Dear Readers, Text us your comments, suggestions and views on today's news or how it was delivered. Tell us about the news you are interested in and the things you want improved in your favorite newspaper. Text INQUIRER <section keyword> name/city/message and send to 283 (Smart) or 2207 (Globe). The section keywords are indicated in the logo of each section.

Do you believe the 4-day workweek program of the government will result in savings in electricity and fuel consumption?

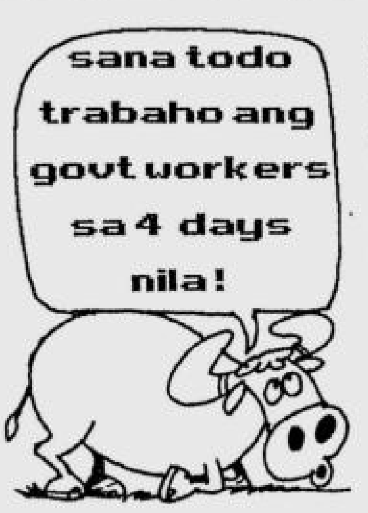
Yes. But productivity hindi. dahil mas marami ang nasasayang ng oras sa upo at tsika, di pa kasali ang sangkatutak na holidays natin
—Percival Guerrero, *Amas Kidapawan City*

8hrs work, may mga employee na nga na tatamad-tamad … how much more kung 10 hrs? di lalong tutulog-tulog!
—VERONA Balangue, *CAGAYAN de Oro*

YES —But only if government personnel themselves are amenable or care enough to implement such a measure. Ü
—anonymous, 47, *san pedro, Laguna*

makakatipid nga tayo pero di naman magaGawa ng govT ang traBaho nya nang maayos, 2 serve d Filipino people.
—eunice cambay, 16, *Las Piñas city*

no, spending 3 days @ home with summer heat translates to more uses of electric fans, airconditioning units & out of town trips.
—Lauro Isorena, *Pasay City*


sana todo trabaho ang govt workers sa 4 days nila!

no, if we look @ govt output during d period, expenses are d same or maybe even higher. d govt shld 1st study its long term effect
—rudis sapitan, *malolos, Bulacan*

Yes, i do believe it will result n savings in elec. & fuel consumption but d 10-hr working time wud be exhausting & unhealthy.
-Jennifer S. Cabote, 23, *SANTIAGO City*

savings in electricity & fuel consumption: yes. Productivity: no.
—Gilda Miguel, *san mateo, rizal*

it will result in savings n electricity n fuel consumption but it will not do any good 2 d ppol. it only favors d corrupt.
—inna cuevas, *makati*

No, it won't. d total no. of working hrs a week is still d same. Paano nlang yong umuuwi sa province araw araw?
—Verona BALANGUE, *cagayan de oro*

I strongly believe d government 4-day workweek program will result in big savings
—Arthur L. Dofeliz, 44, *Malaybalay City*

YES.
—Jucith LABUSNOG, 22, *LAS PIÑAS*

no, cuz it still creates much time doing extra and non-work related duties outside the office and inside.
—john melson pelenio, 27, *bislig city*

i don't believe so, 4 me, it will result lang 2 more consumption & naging mas magastos pa kc some of them will use it for vacation purposes kasi, it's a 3-day weekend.
—Imelda Closa, 19, *LEYTE*

I don't believe in dat coz 4-day work is just da same wid a 5-day work, having da 4-day work extended 4 more working hours.
—arjene abne, 23, *cagayan de oro city*

Hindi epektibo ang plano na yan, pareho lang kasi pasaway din naman ibang empleyado, lalo na walang concern.
—Jonathan M. Roque, 32, *Malolos City*

What are your Easter wishes for our country and people?

4 r country, less graft n corruption n 4 us Filipinos perseverance n dis trying times n stronger faith.
—MERCEDES Tejerero, 53, *Valenzuela City*

Revive d Filipino customs and values; as a nation, disregard the Western influence, restore culture of respect & kabutihang asal..
—Lauro Isorena, *Pasay City*

EASTER WISH? If only our country and people would stop talking, unite and jointly start working for advancement! Ü
—anonymous, 47, *san pedro*

Filipinos should work harder and love our country more.
—Cristina Naguit, *Makati*

For the people, forgiveness and honesty. For my country, peace and hope.
—zhienna bernal, *davao city*

Just as d Lord has risen, i wish its another sign 4 d country to be united n rise agen with a new hope in people's lives!
—Jofrey DE LA Cruz, *Manila*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

MADAME PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO,
ITO PO ANG TOTOO!

To clarify the issues raised on the implementation of the Community Mortgage Program (CMP), we are baring the FACTS so that these will expose the ALLEGATIONS being peddled by a favor-seeking, minority group of non-government organizations:

ALLEGATIONS	FACTS
1. *"National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC), a non-performing government corporation...."*	**In 2004, NHMFC posted a net income of P1.4-billion, a complete reversal from the 2003 loss of P1.5-billlion.**
2. *"The officers of NHMFC have continuously refused to release the funds for SHFC registration...."*	**NHMFC's 2005 operational budget is still for approval by the Dept. of Budget and Management. Being government funds, disbursements have to go through the legal and normal process.**
3 *"NHMFC officers... are presently using the (CMP) repayments for their salaries, bonuses, etc."*	**All DBM releases for CMP are used solely for loans to urban poor. The administrative expenses to implement CMP are paid for by NHMFC from its own corporate funds, of which it has now advanced P 322-million.**
4. *"SHFC will not worsen our budgetary deficit."*	**But where will SHFC get the money to run itself? In truth, it will need a separate budget that will only duplicate present expenses and contribute to the deficit. In addition, SHFC will cause the retirement of many NHMFC employees which will cost millions.**
5. *"All that we are seeking is for SHFC to be organized...."*	**In reality, all they are asking for is control over the CMP funds. As its name connotes, the Congress of CMP originators will be the CMP loan processors and at the same time, the loan borrowers/users. Where is the check and balance?**
6. *The CMP Congress of Originators appears to speak for all CMP loan originators.*	**In truth and in fact they are just a small minority.**

Madame President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, we humbly request you not to be blackmailed by this minority group espousing dubious motives. We entreat you to decide in favor of the more than 154,787 CMP family-beneficiaries and also of the many homeless urban poor which could be better served through NHMFC.

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION

HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang, Manila

Dear Madam President,

We, the officers and employees of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC), one of the government agencies under the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) have fully supported your administration's objective of providing decent housing to the less privileged members of our society.

Our Chairman of the Board, Honorable Vice President Noli L. de Castro, our President, Celso G. de los Angeles, Jr. and we the officers and employees, acknowledge your untiring efforts, sincerity and dedication in leading this country and providing realistic solutions to the problems of our nation despite the tremendous financial pressure besetting the country today.

We pledge our continuous support to your programs, particularly pertaining to housing and housing support under the COMMUNITY MORTGAGE PROGRAM (CMP), which is being administered successfully by NHMFC for 16 years now benefiting the vast majority of the less privileged and homeless citizens.

However, Madam President, there are misguided and misinformed groups or associations, including some CMP originators who wanted to blackmail the Office of the President and/or derail your housing program, the CMP in particular, by campaigning and convincing the public and CMP members/beneficiaries not to pay their legal obligations or monthly amortizations to NHMFC, creating negative impressions against NHMFC officers and employees, the Board members including other public officials. The acts of these groups or associations constitute not only the crime of economic sabotage but also sedition as it is against public order, authority of the government and the general public's welfare.

Again, Madam President, the public is behind you, the NHMFC officers and employees are behind you. Do not be blackmailed by some NGOs, POs and other civil societies who are behind these selfish moves. They stand for their own personal interest, not the interest of the nation.

Thank you and more power to you.

Very truly yours,

NHMFC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

WE, the majority of CMP originators, comprising of People's Organizations, Non Government Organizations (NGOs), Foundations, Local Government Units (LGUs), Key Shelter Agency Employees' Associations, etc., do hereby support the retention of the Community Mortgage Program (CMP) and other social housing functions with **National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC).**

WE assail the move of the minority, some selfish CMP originators for their own vested interest, in pushing for the transfer of these programs to the proposed Social Housing Finance Corp. (SHFC).

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Community Associations	**Originators,**
1. Abacan HOA, Inc.	Pamoanga
2. Akishola HOA, Inc.	Bacolod City
3. Alta Gracia Urban Poor HOA,Inc.	Zamboanga City
4. Ang Bagong Samahan HOA, Inc.	Malabon City
5. Ang Katilingban Integrated Squatters HOA and Livelihood	Bacolod City
6. Cawit Vargas Neighborhood HOA, Inc	Zamboanga City
7. Divine World HOA, Inc	Bulacan
8. Dr. Fernando B. Duran Sr. VillagaeHOA, Inc. Ph 1	Sorsogon City
9. Dumarao HOA, Inc.	Capiz
10.EPCIB HOA, Inc.	Bacolod City
11.Gen. Malvar Cubay Hoa, Inc.	Bacolod City
12.Golden Fields HOA, Inc.	Roxas City
13.Greenland Hoa, Inc. Ph 1-2	Davao City
14.Hollowblocks Neighborhood HOA, Inc.	Bacolod City
15.Kauswagan Community Association, Inc.	Gen. Santos City
16.Kauswagan HOA, Inc.	Bacolod City
17.Libis Bulelak HOA, Inc.	Marikina City
18.Lower Lot 1 Bocod HOA, Inc.	Gen. Santos City
19.Maligaya HOA, Inc.	Bacolod City
20.Malvar HOA, Inc.	Bacolod City
21.Manhattan HOA, Inc.	Zamboanga City
22.Mary's Land HOA, Inc.	Roxas City
23.Meriville HOA, Inc.	Roxas City
24.Milbill Heights HOA, Inc.	Roxas City
25.Mormon Drive Urban Poor Assn.	Zamboanga City
26.Mountain View HOA, Inc. Ph 2	Davao City
27.Nagkakaisang Maralitang Taga-Lungsod HOA, Inc.	Caloocan City
28.Neill Property HOA, Inc.	Quezon City
29.Our Lady of Assumption HOA, Inc.	Zamboanga City
30.Our Lady of Lourdes HOA, Inc.	Davao City
31.Purok Ipil-Ipil Com. Dev't. Assn., Inc.	Gen. Santos City
32.Purok Pelayo Landless Assn.	Davao City
33.Purok Sunflower HOA, Inc.	Bacolod City
34.Rosal HOA, Inc.	Bacolod City
35.Sacred Heart HOA, Inc. Ph 1-5	Tagum City
36.Sacred heart Milbill HOA, Inc.	Roxas City
37.Samahang Magkakapitbahay ng 119 P. Dela Bartolome HOA, Inc.	Quezon City
38.Samahang Magkakapit bahay Simeon Ignacio HOA, Inc.	Caloocan City
39.Samahang Magkakapit-Bisig ng Acero Libis HOA, Inc.	Malabon City
40.Sambahayan Tenant HOA, Inc.	Manila
41.Sampaguita HOA, Inc.	Bacolod City
42.San Antonio HOA, Inc.	Tagum City
43.San Jose HOA, Inc.	Tagum City
44.San Nicolas HOA, Inc.	Davao City
45.San Rafael HOA, Inc.	Davao City
46.San Vicente HOA, Inc.	Davao City
47.San Vicente Milbill HOA, Inc.	Roxas City
48.Simeon Perez Subdivision HOA, Inc.	Gen. Santos City
49.Sitio Milagros Kapitbahayan HOA, Inc.	Antipolo City
50.St. Peter Compound Hoa, Inc.	Zamboanga City
51.Sunflower HOA, Inc.	Bacolod City
52.Sunrise Ville HOA, Inc,	Roxas City
53.Suraya HOA, Inc. Ph 1-2	Davao City
54.Tierra Pag-Asa Heights HOA, Inc.	Zamboanga City
55. Tugbungan Morning Breeze HOA, Inc.	Zamboanga City
56. United HOA, Inc.	Bacolod City
57. United HOA, Inc.	Bacolod City
58. United Roadside HOA, Inc.	Bacolod City
59. Upper Cuatro HOA, Inc. Ph. 1-3	Rizal
60. Upper Ligtasan HOA, Inc.	Antipolo City
61. Villa Alfonso HOA, Inc.	Pasig City

Name of Originators (Foundations and NGOs)	**Location**
1. Community Development Foundation for the Urban Poor, Inc.	Manila
2. F.M. Uriarte Development Foundation, Inc.	Malabon City
3. Frey Foundation, Inc.	Bulacan
4. Great Achievements Foundation, Inc.	Paranaque City
5. Holy Ground Phil. Foundation, Inc.	Marikina City
6. Integrated Neighborhood Assistance, Inc.	Zamboanga City
7. Lupala Foundation, Inc.	Quezon City
8. Palawan Frontier Foundation, Inc.	Puerto Princesa City
9. Sorsogon Urban Resettlement Assistance Center, Inc.	Sorsogon City
10. TOR Foundation, Inc.	Antipolo City

***LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS**
1.League of LGU CMP Originators of the Philippines

***Confederation of Independent Unions in the Public Sector (CIU)**

***Key Shelter Agency Employees' Assns.**
1. PAG-IBIG
2. NHA
3. HGC
4. NHMFC
5. HLURB

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VISAYAS BUREAU
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Land titles to half of Boracay seen

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr., *PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—More than half of Boracay Island in Aklan would be available for titling after an administrative order, classifying areas of the island, is issued by Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, according to an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Western Visayas.

DENR Western Visayas director Vicente Paragas, said the order, set to be signed within the month by Defensor, will categorize 579.295 hectares as "alienable and disposable." The area is 56.13 percent of the '1,032-hectare island-resort.

An area measuring 259.6 hectares or 25.155 percent of the entire island will be declared as forest lands and will be used for plantations and fishponds.

A smaller area, 118.6 hectares (or 11.49 percent of the island) will be categorized as protected areas, which include parks, buffer zones, and a conservation area of the endangered bat species on the island.

The categorization of areas on the island is aimed at resolving the intensifying ownership disputes on prized pieces of property in Boracay as the prices of lots continue to significantly go up due to the increase in tourist arrivals.

Costly

A piece of property in the famous 5-km white beach costs from P25,000 to P30,000 per square meter.

Private ownership of lots on the island is technically illegal under Proclamation 1801 issued by the late President Ferdinand Marcos on Nov. 10, 1978.

The proclamation declared Boracay and other islands and coves as tourist and marine zones and were categorized as public lands.

Landowners, operators of resorts, restaurants inside hotels have no titles on the pieces of property they occupy although they have tax declarations, some covering 30 years.

A regional trial court, and subsequently the Court of Appeals, have ruled that the presidential proclamation does not bar land claimants from having their lots surveyed to apply for titles.

The case is still pending at the appellate court under appeal by the government.

Divided

Claimants on properties on the island are divided on the DENR categorization.

Members of the Boracay Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) support the DENR titling proposal but a group of claimants belonging to the Boracay Foundation Inc. wants the titling to be done through judicial confirmation.

In a report to the President after a consultation with local officials and members of the BCCI and BFI, Defensor said the administrative titling will proceed and it is the prerogative of the claimants to seek judicial confirmation.

The DENR is proposing the putting up of an administrative body similar to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

Paragas said a semi-autonomous body similar to the SBMA is needed to ensure that a centralized leadership will ensure the sustainable development of Boracay.

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Ang sagot ni Ernestina: ok lng!pra mbwasan araw ng pgtunganga nia! imbes s ofc. s bhay nlang cia!
Ang sagot ni Mervyn: kung s 3 days n special session s senado ni gma walang nangyari, lalo n s 4 working days.

Cellcard kada araw, cellphone kada linggo!

Text na!

Bomb threat puts police to action near 'White House'

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Employees of the Clark Development Corp. occupying a building near the White House, the official residence of Philippine Presidents here, received a bomb threat on Monday afternoon while President Macapagal-Arroyo was in this ecozone.

An explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team from the Philippine Air Force's 710th Special Operations Wing on Monday rushed to Building 2443, some 600 meters south of the White House where the President was scheduled to stay on Monday.

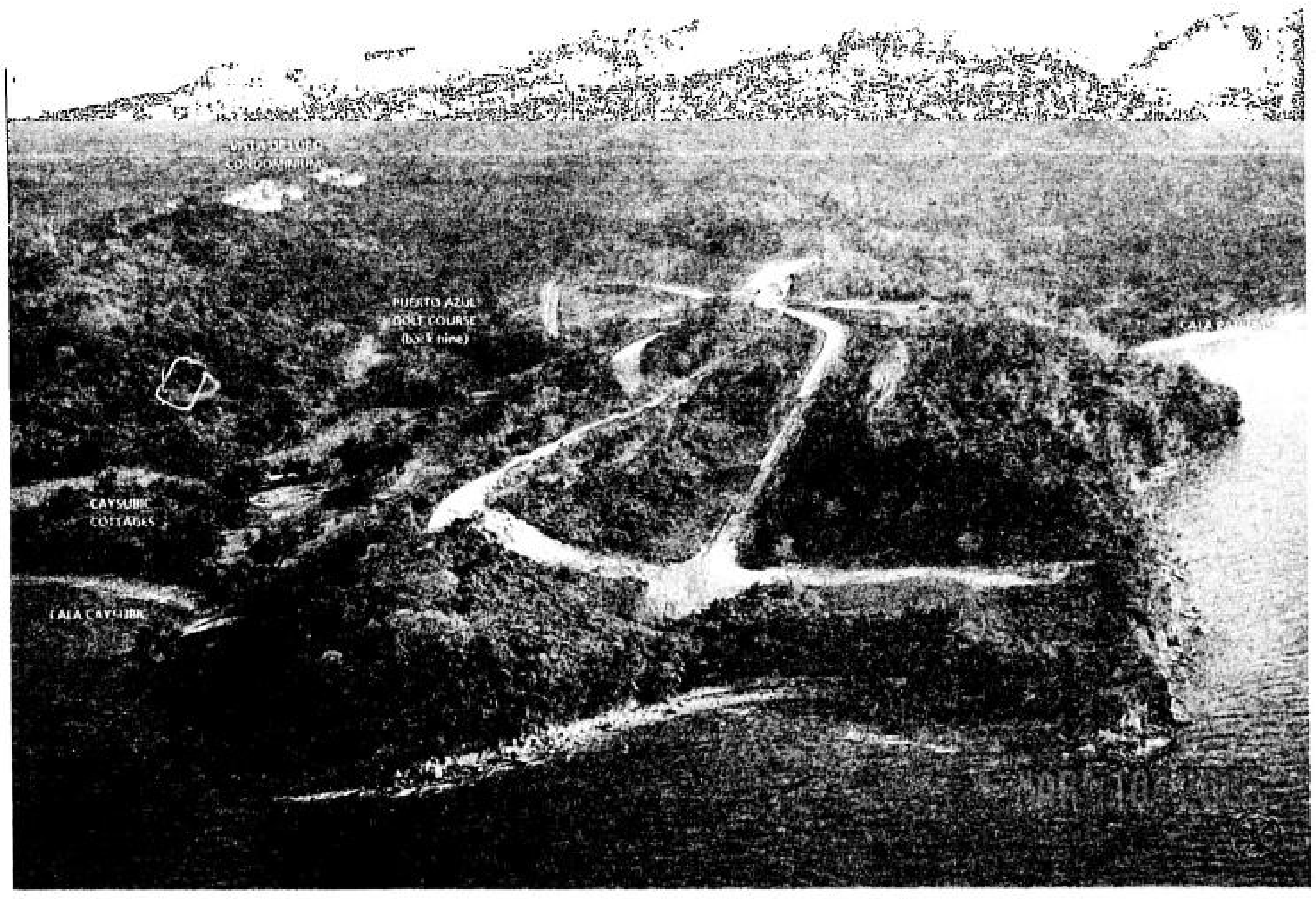
At 4 p.m., or almost two hours since employees received the call informing them of the bomb threat, the EOD team, using at least four bomb-sniffing dogs, failed to find any evidence of the bomb.

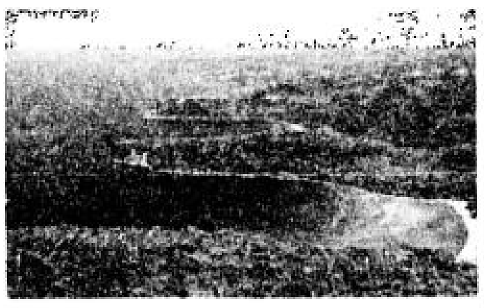
But Juliet Lansangan, an employee at the CDC's land preservation and development office, which is occupying the building, was still shaken by the threat.

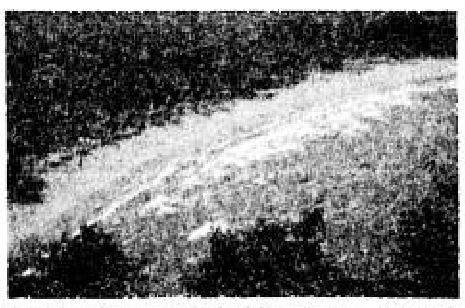
Lansangan said the caller, a man, immediately hung up after informing them that a bomb was planted in the building at about 2:30 p.m.

This was the second bomb threat at Clark since December. The first, which turned out to be a hoax, took place at the CDC main building.

Security at the White House has been tightened, with roads leading to the presidential mansion blocked and manned by the policemen and soldiers. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*







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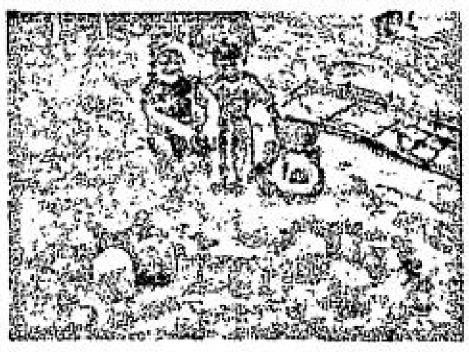

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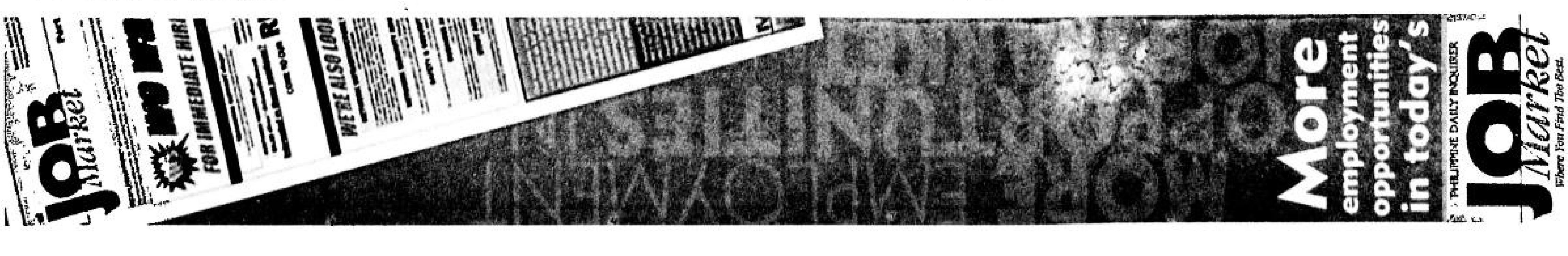


Peace adviser ignores warning of US on MILF

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Presidential Peace Adviser Teresita Deles has ignored warnings made by American military officials against negotiating peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Last week, US Pacific Command chief Admiral William Fallon and US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Christopher Hill expressed concern over the alleged links of the MILF to the Jemaah Islamiyah and the Abu Sayyaf Group.

Hill, according to reports, said the US government was planning to include the MILF in its list of terror groups.

Deles, who was in Basilan on Saturday, said she still has to receive an official communication from the US government regarding the warning.

And if she received such communication from the US government, Deles said it would be of no use.

Thanks, but no thanks

"Thanks, but no thanks," Deles said, stressing that the MILF is "seriously working with us in building the blocks of peace and final settlement and we have no reason not to push through."

She said the government and MILF peace panels have put up enough mechanisms to maintain temporary peace prior to a final peace pact.

On April 16, both panels will again hold technical meetings to discuss "the core or the substance of the talks—the issue on ancestral domain."

The fact that two panels have reached the ancestral domain issue, Deles said, removes all obstacles and any reason for the Philippine government to back out from the talks by simply reacting to some "unofficial US government warning."

The Philippine government, Deles said, is very much conscious of the persistent reports of the MILF's alleged link with the terrorist organization.

"Before we resumed the peace process, we have asked of the explicit disavowal of the MILF of all links of the organization and the institution with terrorist elements and we believed that they have given us that commitment," Deles said.

American warning

Adm. William Fallon, head of the US Pacific Command, on March 30 warned that the MILF had links with the Abu Sayyaf and the Southeast Asia-based Jemaah Islamiyah.

The MILF has repeatedly denied allegations of it having ties with terrorist groups.

The United States has been advocating that the MILF be included in the US state department's list of foreign terrorist groups. But Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had appealed to the United States not to include the MILF in the list as it would affect the peace negotiations.

Sulu Rep. Gerry Salapuddin, the House deputy speaker for Mindanao, had said that the warning was ill-timed as it was released when the resumption of the peace talks nears.

Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco, chair of the House committee on foreign affairs, said the talks were of "greater importance" than "what the US thinks about the MILF."

"We are careful not to burn the lines with the MILF . . . We have worked hard to keep the peace process moving despite the clashes in Mindanao," he said. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

SUMMER GETAWAY

JOSEPH AGCAOILI

The pristine waters of the Loboc River in Bohol is a perfect place to enjoy nature, especially during the hot months of summer.

Luck smiles at TB-stricken Negrense who won lotto

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A 35-year-old Negrense, who has been suffering from tuberculosis, will no longer have to live in a slum area that used to be the site of a garbage dump.

He was one of the three persons who won the P63 million superlotto jackpot of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) last March 20, the same day when Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao lost his fight to Mexican Erik Morales in Las Vegas.

Mario (not his real name) said he had been betting on the number combination—9-13-18-19-24-34—for the last three and a half years.

He told the INQUIRER that except for the number 34, which he said was a "joke number," the rest represented the birthdays of his family members.

His perseverance, however, paid off on March 20 when he saw that his combination won during the lotto draw aired at the government station NBN 4.

He told his brother, who bought the lotto ticket for him, not to tell anyone that he won. "Only my brother and wife knew about my winning, I could not sleep that night. I was very excited," he said.

Mario then contacted a relative who helped him borrow money for his fare to go to Manila so he could claim his P21 million, his share of the P63 million.

The relative then accompanied him to Manila to claim his winnings from the PCSO office, which they immediately deposited in a bank.

On his return to Negros Occidental, Mario gave packages to his neighbors consisting of rice, canned goods and some money.

He and his family also went to the Church in Barangay Vito, Sagay City, to thank the Lord for his good fortune.

Mario said he used to cook barbecued chicken for a living but was forced to stop when he developed tuberculosis.

His wife took over the business and became the sole breadwinner. The couple has two children—a son, 12 and a daughter, 9.

Since he has become a millionaire, his wife has stopped cooking chicken barbecue. He also has no plans to leave his community because the place has been lucky for him.

But he is using part of his winnings to rebuild his wooden house.

He also went to see a doctor for his tuberculosis and bought the medicines he needed. He also bought some clothes for his wife and children.

But a relative has cautioned him to make sure he leaves some money for himself and his family after noticing that Mario has been giving a lot of his winnings to his friends and relatives.

"I know what it is like to be poor and in dire need. That is why I have been sharing my winnings with others," he said.

FEAR OF MINING

DENR asked to stop nickel hauling in Samar town

By Cyrain Cabueñas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORONGAN, Eastern Samar—Borongan Bishop Leonardo Medroso has asked Environment Secretary Michael Defensor to suspend the hauling of nickel ore by Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC) on mineral-rich Manicani Island in Guiuan town.

In a letter to Defensor, the bishop suggested that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources take hold of the remaining stockpile until residents' concerns are addressed.

"Our main concern is the closure of the mining operations in Manicani so that the people will move on to their own development. But of late, the brewing issue is the loading of the stockpiled minerals," he said.

Medroso said tension was high because government authorities were deployed, purportedly to maintain peace and order, but allegations persisted that some policemen were harassing anti-mining constituents.

"These anti-mining constituents were harassed because they were exposing the many deceptive actions perpetrated by some local officials that led to the granting of the Ore Transport Permit (OTP)," he added.

Fr. Alejandro Galo Jr., Manicani Island parish priest, said the HMC loading activities were met with protests because the OTP was questionable and the statement of support from the local officials was rigged.

He said the date of the OTP was altered and that there was no release-stamp in it. He said the permit did not mention any specific volume for loading, and was just a photocopy from a faxed document.

The issue of social acceptability has not been resolved to date, he added.

Some 106,000 metric tons of nickle ore were stockpiled in Barangay Buenavista, one of the four villages on the island. The three other sites were Banaag, San Jose and Hamorawon.

Opposition

Despite the opposition of many residents, the HMC was able to load ore in two barges docked on the village wharf from March 7 to 11.

Several residents had barricaded the entrance to the dock area but were dispersed by the police.

Galo witnessed the dispersal conducted by some 30 police officers from the Regional Mobile Group at about 10 p.m. of March 11.

"While the anti-mining residents were praying the rosary and forming a human barricade at the loading point, the police started to grab and push them aside," said Galo.

"A barangay *kagawad* was hit by a rifle butt in the rib cage and another was hit in the forehead with an Armalite muzzle," he added.

The situation on the island has led Medroso and the priests of the Diocese of Borongan to renew their collective stand against mining in Samar.

The entire Holy Week saw the clergy using the pulpit to air their concerns on mining.

Manuel Sumuok, barangay chair of Buenavista, earlier said many residents were opposed to the hauling operations because they believed that the company would only use it so the HMC could resume mining operations.

Ease pressure on Caraga on logs, solon asks DENR

SURIGAO del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay yesterday called on Environment Secretary Michael Defensor to hasten the implementation of President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration to open more production forest lands in Western Mindanao and Northern Luzon, to lessen the strain on the Caraga Region, which is a major production area.

In a press statement, Pichay, vice chair of the Commission on Appointments, also said the development and reopening of more production forest lands will generate more jobs, boost the economy of regions and provinces and answer the country's need for wood in construction, furniture making and other industries.

Pichay issued the call on Defensor as he warned that the nationwide log ban may increase pressure on the Caraga Region which has to increase its log production to make up for the production stoppage in other areas covered by the log ban.

"Pursuant to the President's directive to open up more forest lands in Western Mindanao and Northern Luzon, we urge the DENR to fast track this commitment. This will ease the pressure on the Caraga Region . . . ," Pichay said.

The DENR, he said, already has plans to develop more production forest lands.

During the 2005 budget presentation, Pichay recalled that DENR officials revealed plans to open more forest lands for development without clear-cutting.

Based on DENR data, Pichay said the Caraga produced 419,235 cubic meters of logs, 76,571 cubic meters of lumber, 140,227 cubic meters of veneer and 105,763 cubic meters of plywood.

VISITOR FROM FLORIDA

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn, appointed focal mayor of the League of Cities program to set up an environment unit for the group, and Clay Ford, head of the Florida League of Cities, and Lynn Tipton, director of membership development, study documents during a seminar to set up the league's environment unit. Ford visited Puerto Princesa to coordinate environment programs for the city and Florida.

Visayas, Luzon LGUs still divided over enforcing shortened workweek

ILOILO CITY—Members of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) will decide whether to implement the four-day workweek during a meeting today, a day after the administration policy is set to take effect.

Iloilo City Mayor and LCP president Jerry Treñas said the implementation of Administrative Order 117 will be among the issues to be discussed by the 117-member league in their meeting in Surigao City.

But several other local government units, including Bulacan, have already made a decision.

Gov. Josefina de la Cruz said although she wanted to support the energy conservation campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo through the shortened workweek, she could not sacrifice the pre-scheduled activities and tasks needed to be accomplished by the provincial government to benefit her province mates.

De la Cruz said the provincial government considers April to June as "business months" when the workload for programs for teachers and the youth and tax collections is at its peak.

"Most of our programs are held during these months," she said.

De la Cruz said they needed more working hours for planning and implementing the province's cultural and sports activities, training of teachers, selection of government scholars and barangay consultations.

The scheme and some mayors have started implementing it in their towns.

But local government units (LGUs) on Panay Island are split on the implementation of the order.

Treñas said it was unlikely that the Iloilo City government will implement the policy. "We are a front-line unit and our services will be affected if we cut the number of working days," Treñas told the INQUIRER.

Aklan province will also not implement the order. "We need five days a week to ensure our service to the people," Aklan Gov. Carlito Marquez said they will only adopt the four-day workweek if it is mandatory for LGUs, Marquez said in a telephone interview.

Governors Joseph Marañon of Negros Occidental and Gwendolyn Garcia of Cebu earlier said they would not implement the order.

Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas Sr. has issued an order, requiring around 2,000 capitol employees to report for work at 7:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. from Monday to Thursday. Tupas said the order excludes hospital employees. *Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

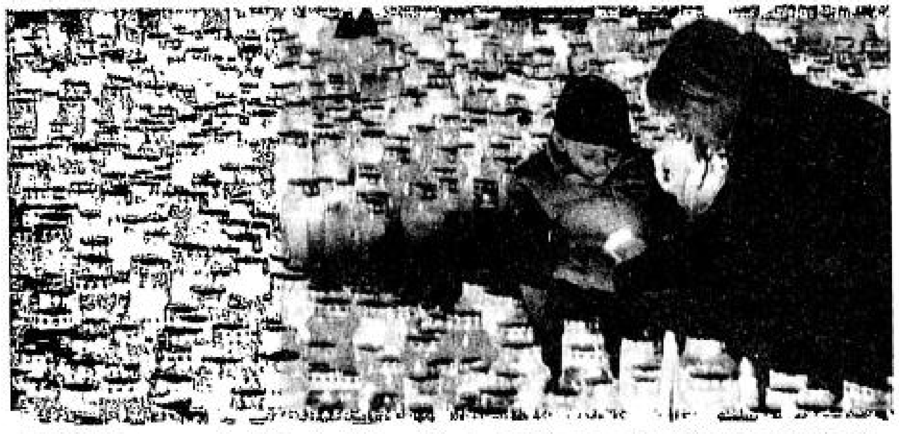
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

THE MOURNING AFTER

THE FAITHFUL pray during a special Mass for Pope John Paul II at Pilsudski Square in Warsaw. More than 100,000 people packed the central square in the capital. REUTERS

MEMBERS of the National Muslim Peace and Order Council express respect, grief and unity with Catholics over the Pope's death in a prayer rally in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

THE CUBAN flag waves on half staff at the memorial of Cuban independence hero Jose Marti in Havana. REUTERS



A BOY lights a candle in front of the cathedral in Zagreb as he joins thousands of Croatians in paying respect to the Pope. AFP

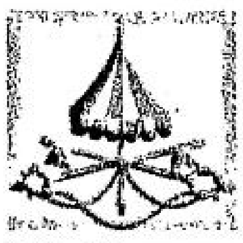
Spanish cardinal takes charge as 'camerlengo'

ROME—The Regime of the Vacant See has begun.

At the moment of Pope John Paul II's death on Saturday, the power structure that governed the Roman Catholic hierarchy for the past 26 years fell away, and an ultraconservative 78-year-old Spanish cardinal temporarily became the leading decision-maker in Catholicism.

Cardinal Eduardo Martinez Somalo, the camerlengo, or chamberlain, of the Vatican, will be the administrative—although not the spiritual—father of the world's more than 1 billion Catholics until a new pope is elected sometime within the next few weeks.

MARTINEZ Somalo: The Chamberlain AFP



SEAL of the vacancy of the Holy See

No acting pope

There is no "deputy" or "acting" pope in Catholicism, so the transition period before a new pope is elected comes with a traumatic bureaucratic shake-up.

The heads of the agencies of the Vatican, essentially the Cabinet of the Vatican, and John Paul's inner circle of aides, automatically lose their power.

Until the Pope's death, Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz, the Pope's personal secretary and a trusted aide from their days together in Poland, was one of the most powerful men in Vatican City.

Dziwisz slept near the Pope's bedroom, controlled his schedule, told him what papers to sign and was with him during most of every day and at the moment of his death.

Empty seat

"The seat of Peter is now empty, the throne is vacant," said Giovanni Maria Vian, a Vatican historian at La Sapienza University in Rome. "The government of the church now is regulated by norms that go back to the medieval times. The church of Rome is perhaps the last absolute monarchy in the world, and when the pope dies all the curial offices are decapitated. All the heads fall, and only a few special ones remain."

The cleric of the moment is Martinez Somalo. It was he who had the responsibility to make sure that the Pope was dead.

He also took charge of organizing the lying in state of the Pope's body in the Vatican basilica and the papal funeral and, if tradition prevailed, of putting seals on the Pope's bedroom and study.

His primary responsibility is to organize the still unscheduled papal conclave of all the cardinals.
The New York Times News Service

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WHAT ABOUT US?
Not wanting to be left out, members of a tricycle organization in Quezon City are asking for a P2.50 fare increase because of the continuing rise in oil prices. JOAN BONDOC

Trash bins inside PUJs a must–MMDA

By Tarra V. Quismundo

GARBAGE should have a special place in all forms of public transport.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Bayani Fernando yesterday called on drivers and operators of public utility vehicles to remember that there is a law requiring them to put trash bins inside vehicles for public use.

"We are reminding operators of buses, jeepneys, FX taxis, and tricycles to have trash cans. There is an existing law on this," Fernando said.

The MMDA chair made the appeal after noting that a number of public utility vehicles (PUVs), particularly buses, lacked the simple provision of a garbage can, which is against the anti-littering law. Embodied in Presidential Decree 825, this law prohibits the public from throwing trash in public places.

"They could do what we did in Marikina. For tricycles, since these are smaller, we require drivers to put trash cans big enough to hold a liter of trash. Litter in a liter, so to speak," said Fernando, who once served as Marikina mayor.

Bigger vehicles, such as jeepneys and buses, may place containers that can hold four liters of trash. The MMDA, he said, would continue enforcing this law, in cooperation with local government units.

Fernando said the MMDA may ask the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board to revoke the franchise of a public transport operator found persistently violating this requirement.

"It may come to that. If they won't follow the law, we could recommend that their franchise be revoked," said Fernando.

The MMDA had been enforcing a parallel penalty system for commuters and pedestrians caught throwing trash in the streets and roads. The simple and practical system requires offenders to pick up the trash they had thrown, even if this would mean they would do so in public.

"Apart from the fact that this could put them to shame, those who see violators picking up their trash would perhaps learn from their example," Fernando said.

MMDA's 20 bus bays on Edsa to complement pink fences

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is planning to construct mid-lane bus bays throughout the length of Edsa to bottlenecks on the avenue.

MMDA chair Bayani Fernando said yesterday the agency would construct some 20 loading and unloading platforms on both directions. The loading bays would complement the agency's pink fences that restrict buses to the outer lanes.

The project, designed to effect a more efficient segregation of buses and private vehicles, is scheduled to be completed end of the year, said Fernando.

The World Bank, he said, granted the agency a P50-million loan for the project.

"The lanes are too narrow that when buses change lanes, they block two lanes and cause traffic (jams). What we want is speedy loading and unloading," Fernando told reporters in a press conference yesterday.

The mid-lane bus bays would separate the outer lanes of Edsa, the so-called yellow lanes where some steel barriers had been put up in some portions of the avenue.

The commuter platforms, a meter wide and the length of two buses, would serve as a second set of loading and unloading bays, in addition to the sidewalks.

Fernando said the agency was eyeing MRT stations as priority areas for construction of commuter bays as they had the most number of commuters.

"We would conduct a survey (to) determine... where to put up [loading platforms]," said the MMDA chair.

So far, loading bays had been put up on the southbound portion where the Ayala Station of the Metro Rail Transit is located, and in front of Farmer's Plaza for the northbound stretch.

Out with pink

Meanwhile, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito is asking the MMDA to remove the pink fences in his municipality.

In a letter to the MMDA chair, Ejercito gave the agency until tomorrow to remove the fences. Otherwise, the mayor said San Juan's own engineering department would dismantle them.

The pink fences were installed by the MMDA on Edsa supposedly to ease traffic by preventing commuters from getting off public utility vehicles in the middle of the highway.

But Ejercito said the structures only worsened the situation. Worse, heavy traffic had spilled over to the Greenhills Shopping Complex.

Business establishments feared they would lose customers because of the heavy traffic.

"They had been experiencing as much as a 40 percent drop in their sales," Ejercito said.

In San Juan, pink fences run from Annapolis to Connecticut, covering about 500 meters. Ejercito said San Juan did not need the fences as the town had no history of heavy traffic.

The brewing tension between Ejercito and the MMDA, however, could have been defused by a phone call.

A conversation between the San Juan official and the MMDA chair prevented an impending tug-of-war on the stretch of Edsa within the San Juan territory—for the meantime.

"We had already discussed the matter. That's already settled," insisted Fernando, referring to talks between him and Ejercito yesterday.

Fernando related that he and Ejercito talked over San Juan's problem with the MMDA's pink fences, which were installed along Edsa's southbound stretch, which reached the avenue's intersection with Annapolis, a major artery into the San Juan town proper.

Traffic problem

San Juan stakeholders had complained about heavier traffic the pink fences caused on the major thoroughfare, he told the INQUIRER.

The MMDA is currently undertaking roadwork on this portion, as it had begun constructing a mid-road loading bay on the fenced stretch to separate buses within the two bus lanes.

Fernando said the mayor was agreeable to the idea of observing the changes that would be implemented on the fenced portion, and would hold his earlier decision to dismantle the fences if the MMDA would not give up the scheme in three days.

METROBRIEFS

Night of rage

A YOUNG Korean businessman was arrested the other night for allegedly punching, kicking and spitting at three cops who had flagged him down for erratic driving on Elliptical Road in Quezon City. Hyun Choi, 26, a Korean national who lives in B.F. Homes, Quezon City, was charged with direct assault after he violently resisted Central Police District officers. According to the police report, a mobile patrol unit led by SPO1 Reynaldo Ebdane was cruising along Elliptical Road around 11:30 p.m. when they spotted an overspeeding gray Mercedes Benz with plate numbers RCK-325 that seemed out of control. The policemen gave chase and signaled the driver to stop, but the suspect continued driving, police said. On the way to Visayas Avenue, the Mercedes Benz nearly sideswiped Luis Dalope, who hurt his right foot and fell on the pavement *DJ Yap*

Lighter ban at Naia

THE NINOY Aquino International Airport (Naia) yesterday reminded passengers bound for the United States of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) prohibition banning lighters in "sterile" areas of airports and on board aircrafts. The TSA policy will be implemented starting April 14. The airport authority will put up several signages at the entrance doors and check in counters of the Naia 1 and Centennial Terminal to remind passengers of the TSA policy, according to retired Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) assistant general manager for security. *Nikko Dizon*

Resort drowning

A 20-YEAR-OLD student drowned in a resort in Caloocan City last Saturday evening and could have been saved if a life guard had rescued him and he was given first aid treatment, a relative said. No lifeguard at the Villa Celedonio Resort in Bagumbong, Caloocan City, tried to save the victim and no first aid was done to revive Anthony Canon, according to Mary Grace Ganrino in her statement to the police. Friends reportedly tried to resuscitate the student but were unable to do so for lack of training. Resort employee, Lon Tabije, however, said Villa Celedonio employed lifeguards, but could not give any comments on allegations that the victim did not get any help. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Rabies-free city

MANDALUYONG is now a "rabies free" city. According to data from the city's Veterinary division, the number of dogs with rabies has gone down to zero percent for three years now. Dr. Louie Encarnacion, city veterinary division chief, said this could be attributed to the small number of stray dogs in the city and the animal awareness programs of the local government. Encarnacion said the city has ranked number one as a rabies free city, with Marikina, for three years. However, he noted that the city would be totally free from rabies in 2007. "It's not that easy," Encarnacion said. "That's why we continue to intensify our vaccination and awareness programs." Mayor Boyet Gonzales, meanwhile, asked his constituents to have their pets vaccinated and to follow a city ordinance prohibiting pets to roam in public places.

Divine intercession sought to save Arroceros Park

By Tina G. Santos

ENVIRONMENTALISTS fighting for the preservation of Manila's Arroceros Park have turned to prayers as they challenged Mayor Lito Atienza, a known pro-life advocate, to take up the cause of nature.

"The mayor has been a staunch protector of infants... But why doesn't he stand up for trees especially those growing in the park? Doesn't it stand to reason, that if you are pro-life, then you are pro-tree or pro-nature?," said activist priest Fr. Robert Reyes as he celebrated Sunday Mass in front of the park's entrance.

"We weep for the passage of a father, Pope John Paul II. We (also) weep over the... impending murder of innocent, life-giving trees here in Arroceros Park. The trees at Mehan Garden have been felled. Roxas Boulevard now brags of a beautiful Baywalk. But where are the trees?," he added.

After the Mass, Reyes and his group planted some 84 saplings in a portion they called John Paul II Forest Garden in honor of the Pope.

Living testimony

"These trees will be a living and enduring testimony of the Pope's fundamental commitment to life," Reyes said.

Members of the Winner Foundation Inc., the environmental organization taking care of the park, had to enter through the back gate as the front was padlocked reportedly "upon the mayor's order."

Park caretakers claimed a certain Col. Ibay went to the site around 7 a.m. Sunday and threatened to arrest them if they refused to leave the property.

"He told us to leave or he would arrest us. He said we should just let the construction workers do their (job) and we should not meddle," they told INQUIRER in Filipino.

Atienza recently gave the go-signal for the building of what would be the headquarters of the city school division in the forest park, which environmentalists considered part of Manila's "lungs" and a weapon against urban air pollution.

Winner said construction on the site would not be possible without cutting the trees.

Regina Paterno, Winner chair, said the mayor's intrusion into the park without notice constituted a breach of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed between the City and the foundation in November 1993.

The agreement authorized Winner to create and develop a forest park on Department of Education, Culture and Sports property.

"The mayor's intrusion into the park does not serve public interest, but only his own," Paterno said.

Teachers' property

In an earlier interview, Atienza insisted the teachers needed the property.

He said the property belonged to the teachers so they should benefit from it.

Atienza had said the property was bought using Manila's special education fund.

LAS PIÑAS CITY SCHOLAR
Rep. Cynthia Villar, chair of the House committee on higher and technical education, (right) recently handed out scholarship grants to deserving students of Las Piñas City, like Diane C. Miranda (center) of the AMA Computer Learning Center. Also in photo is Tesda-National Capital Region District Director Josephine Casuga.

Pope John Paul II's message

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

FILIPINOS will always remember Pope John Paul II for visiting the country twice. He was the most traveled pope in history.

But people worldwide will always remember John Paul II for extending a hand of friendship and reconciliation to other faiths.

He was the first pope to pray inside a mosque, the first pope to preach inside a Protestant church, and the first pope to visit and pray at the holy shrine of the Jews.

Unlike his predecessors, the leader of 1.1 billion Catholics humbled himself by praying in the places of worship of people of different faiths.

He built bridges, instead of walls, that served to reconcile the Catholic Church with other religions.

For 2,000 years since the Catholic Church was founded, its followers had been taught that the Church is the "only one, true religion" as it was founded by Christ.

This mindset has brought about the bad blood between Christians and Muslims (although the Church denies there is such a rift), and between Catholics and Protestants in Ireland and other parts of the world.

It has brought about ethnic cleansing, the Holocaust during Nazi Germany, etc.

John Paul was probably the first pope to acknowledge the sin of omission on the part of the Catholic Church in keeping quiet while Nazi Germany butchered millions of Jews.

The pope at the time looked the other way while Jews were massacred by the millions, probably thinking that anyway, the Jews were responsible for crucifying Christ on the cross.

Let's pray John Paul's successor will carry on his reconciliation with other faiths.

It's juvenile to think that since the Catholic Church was founded by Christ, then it is the only true religion and other faiths worship demons.

All religions— Islam, Catholic, Jewish, Protestant—worship only one God who is known by other names such as Allah and Yahweh.

It's high time people all over the world shunned centuries-old prejudices toward other religions so we can live in a more peaceful and more tolerant world.

Thinking people should question their own religions that preach disunity among different faiths.

It's amazing why intelligent individuals continue to embrace religions that foist disunity among brethren of different culture, race and faith.

John Paul's message was simple.

"We are all one," he said. "Muslims, Jews, Christians are all brothers."

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Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Editor* **Ester G. Dipasupil** ■ *Assistant Editor* **Cenon B. Bibe Jr.**

Warden faces probe after super's visit

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A PASAY City jail warden is under investigation after a jail official conducted a surprise inspection on Sunday and found electric appliances inside the cells that were not supposed to be there.

At around 5:30 a.m. on Sunday, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) Director General Arturo Alit dropped by the city jail unannounced to conduct a routinary check.

The inspection revealed an accumulation of 50 electric fans, 5 video *karera* and videoke machines, and three television sets inside the female and male wards.

Gen. Armando Llamazares, BJMP regional director for the National Capital Region said Supt. Mariano Andres, officer in charge of the facility, would face investigators following the discovery.

He added that there is a possibility that Andres could be relieved from his post, but this would depend on the results of the evaluation to be undertaken by the Regional Committee Placement Board. The evaluation, he said, would also be applicable to all jail wardens in Metro Manila.

"This is so we can give incentives to those who are doing their best and do something about those who are not," Llamazares added.

The inspection yesterday was part of their standard operating procedure.

"We usually give priority to jails that are dilapidated and congested," he said, explaining that jail disturbances were most likely to occur in overcrowded jails.

"The inspection was a normal procedure," confirmed Maj. Carolina Borrinaga, who had just assumed the post as the custodian of the female dorm last Friday.

The jail had recently undergone changes in its operational and administrative management.

About 104 female inmates had been placed under Borrinaga's management. The male inmates are still under Andres' supervision. The jail's first floor had been converted to a dormitory with three cells, exclusively for the female inmates.

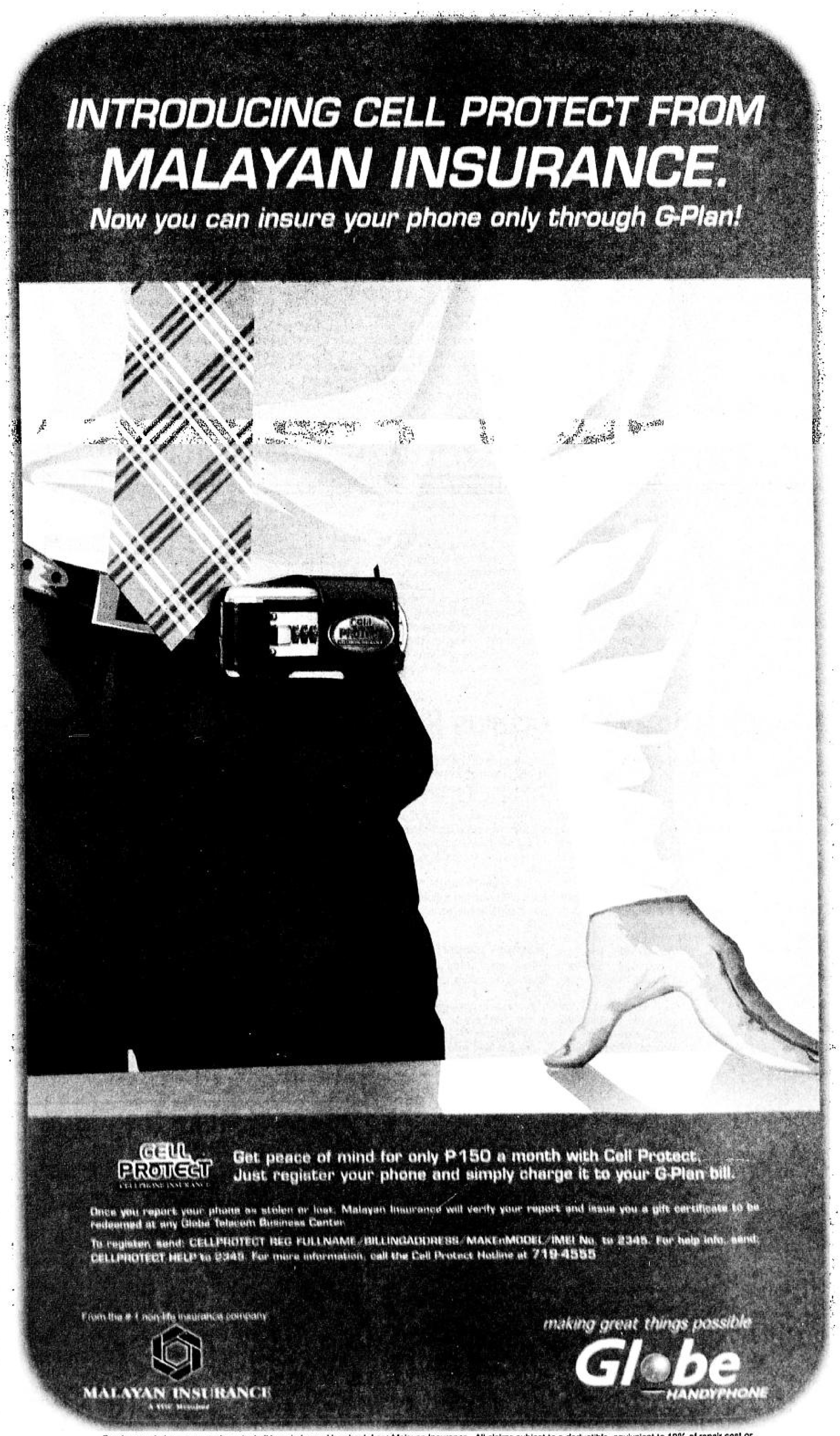
Borrinaga said the articles confiscated inside the female ward were not contraband items.

Andres, on the other hand, said the electric fans inside the male wards were taken away because these were more than the number of electrical appliances in the BJMP quota for inmates.

"The fans were confiscated to reduce the electric consumption in the jail," Andres said, adding that one of the problems of the BJMP yearly was the ballooning electric bills. The electricity bills in all Metro Manila jails amount to roughly P3 million a year, Andres said.

Both jail wardens, however, said the video *karera* and videoke machines were used only for recreational purposes.

"We are not an income-generating institution," Andres stressed. "The inmates have no other form of recreation inside the jail."



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Travel advices fail to stop visit of IPU delegates

By Margaux C. Ortiz and Edson Tandoc Jr.

TRAVEL advisories recently issued against the Philippines have failed to discourage delegates of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) from visiting the country for their week-long conference, according to Philippine National Police (PNP) officials.

"We already have a little over a thousand delegates in the country, around 70 percent of the number of dignitaries expected to attend the 112th IPU Assembly at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC)," PNP Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco said yesterday.

"This only shows that the delegates were not affected by the travel advisories issued by their governments," Velasco, also the Task Force Parliament commander, added.

Director General Carmen Arceno, 112th IPU Assembly Organizing Committee chair, said the Philippines had recently received travel advisories from the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and Australia.

More than 20 British and 15 Australian delegates, and Canadian participants, however, have already arrived in the country for the assembly, he added. The US is not a member of the IPU.

Sightseeing

Arceno also said they had received reports from the Department of Tourism, which maintains a travel desk at the PICC, that many delegates had expressed interest in traveling to the country's prime tourist destinations.

"Some of them even made reservations in the resorts of Boracay, Bohol and Cebu," Arceno said.

Velasco stressed that the PNP would continue to provide security to delegates who decide to stay in the country after the conference.

Meanwhile, wives of some of the delegates spent a few hours yesterday in the famous Pearl Gallery at the Greenhills Shopping Complex in San Juan.

The gallery has become a byword abroad because of the wide selection of pearls and jewelry sold in its stores.

Pearls harvested in the country are sold at a relatively low price by Muslim and Maranaw traders, complex promo assistant Annesy Del Mundo told the INQUIRER.

Though the arrival of the wives was unexpected, Del Mundo said they were always ready to welcome guests.

"We have a lot of groups visiting us on a regular basis," she said. "We are ready to provide assistance and security."

Safe destination

A group of more than 10 women got off at the complex from a shuttle bus shortly before noon, while a few arrived on board private cars. The municipal police was quick to provide security as the wives went around the shopping complex.

Eastern Police District director Oscar Valenzuela and San Juan police chief Rodelio Jocson were also at the shopping complex yesterday to monitor security arrangements.

"We will make sure that their visit here will be safe," Jocson said.

He said they had doubled their security efforts in the complex not only for the delegates but also because of the expected increase in the number of shoppers this summer.

About 1,500 foreign lawmakers are joining the assembly which began Sunday night and ends on April 8.

While the police had claimed they were prepared to provide security for the delegates, militant groups said they were ready to mount protests to show the international community "the real plight" of the country.

Bayan Secretary General Renato Reyes had said about 10,000 protesters, including supporters of the late actor and presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., would join a demonstration scheduled on April 7 near the PICC.

SPORTS TV

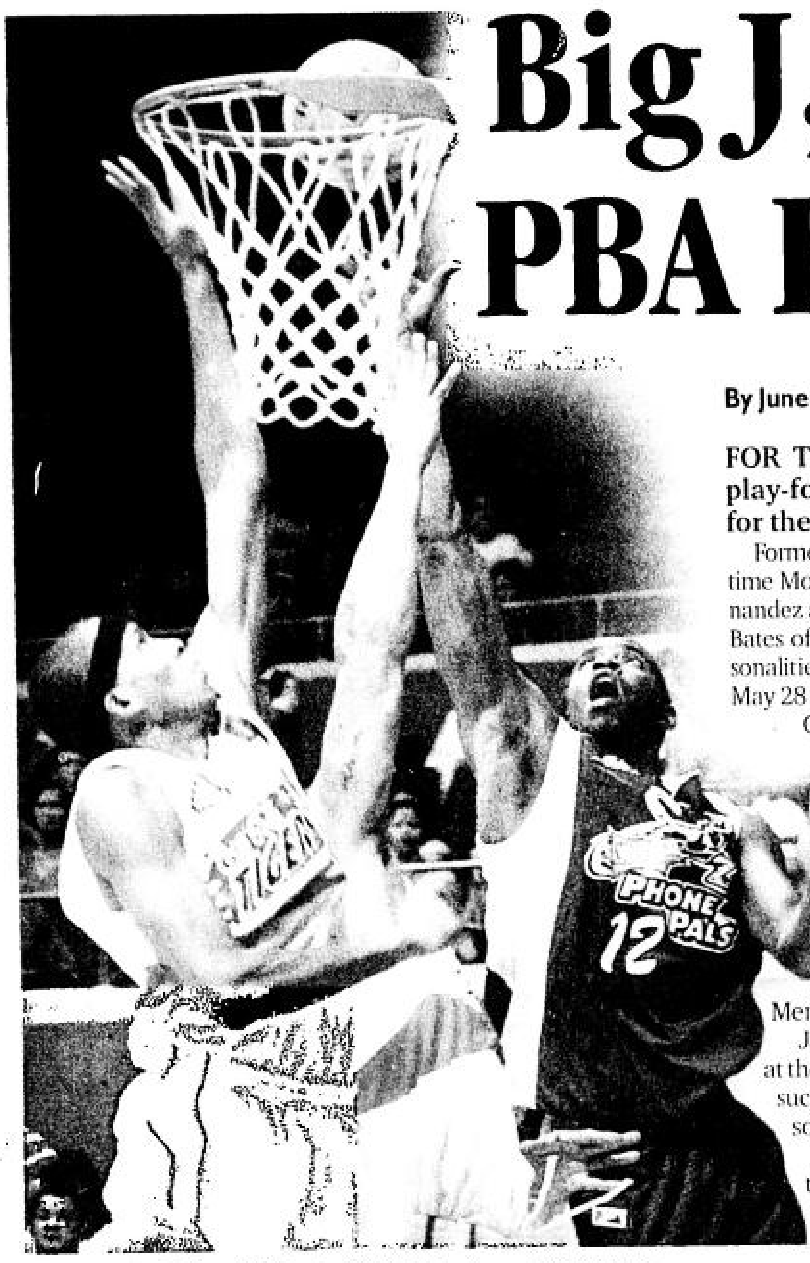
Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA; 9 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports—Find out which college team has that one shining moment in St. Louis.

BILLIARDS: San Miguel Asian 9 Ball Tour; 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.; STAR Sports—Take another look at the quarterfinals from Jakarta.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Big J, Fernandez lead PBA Hall of Fame bets



RAFI Reavis (left) and Ali Peek (hidden) challenge Talk 'N Text import Noel Felix's attempt. The two Fil-Ams helped import-less Coca-Cola beat the Phone Pals, 102-82, Sunday night. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

JAWORSKI: Toyota superstar

By June Navarro

FOR THEIR solid contributions to the growth of Asia's first play-for-pay league, 69 candidates passed the initial screening for the Philippine Basketball Association Hall of Fame.

Former Sen. Robert Jaworski, four-time Most Valuable Player Ramon Fernandez and illustrious import Billy Ray Bates of Crispa fame led the PBA personalities from which the inductees on May 28 will come from.

Comprising the first batch of nominees are players, coaches, league and team officials and media personalities carefully picked and screened by the PBA Hall of Fame selection committee chaired by Philippine Daily Inquirer columnist Al Mendoza.

Jaworski and Fernandez stood at the helm of the Toyota Tamaraws' success during the formative seasons of the 30-year-old league.

Toyota's fabled rivalry with the Crispa Redmanizers, led by three-time MVP William Adornado and the streak-shooting Atoy Co, is considered one of the most colorful encounters in the annals of Philippine basketball history.

Baby Dalupan, the league's winningest coach with 15 titles, heads the candidates among coaches.

"The Maestro" joins founding commissioner Leo Prieto and the well-loved Danny Floro, the late team manager of Crispa, on top of the team and league officials' roster.

Joe Cantada, whose lively coverage set the standard in sports broadcasting, spearheads the media category.

Other prominent players being considered for the Hall of Fame are Adornado, Co, Abet Guidaben, Francis Arnaiz, Philip Cesar, Abe King, the late Arnie Tuadles, Freddie Hubalde, Bernie Fabiosa, Danny Florencio, Lim Eng Beng, Manny Paner, Yoyong Martirez, Mike Bilbao, Chito Loyzaga, Ricardo Brown, Hector Calma and Samboy Lim.

Alvin Patrimonio, also a four-time MVP, and 1990 MVP Allan Caidic, owner of the single-game scoring record for locals with 79 points, are ineligible yet since once of the criteria for players is that he must not have seen action for the last five years.

Knights out to end jinx vs Wizards

THE MAGNOLIA Ice Cream Wizards are tough to beat, a fact the Toyota Otis-Letran Knights are well aware of.

But the Knights are hoping to end their misfortunes against the Wizards when they collide in the PBL Unity Cup at 4 p.m. today at the Makati Coliseum.

"We have to be aggressive on both ends of the court to beat Magnolia," said coach Louie Alas, noting that his Knights have already lost five times to the 2004 Unity Cup champions since last year. "If we can't do that we have no chance to beat them."

In the opening game, Welcoat-St. Benilde battles the debuting Negros Navigation-San Beda at 2 p.m.

The Paintmasters, runners-up in the recent PBL Open, are again expected to bank on the tandem of Anthony Washington and Marvin Ortiguerra.

The 6-foot-7 Washington quickly made an impact last conference, earning the Fantastic Freshman award.

The Paintmasters lost veteran Chester Tolomia to the pro ranks, but St. Benilde mainstays Jay Sagad and Paolo Orbeta hope to fill the void.

Magnolia lost the services of Warren Ybañez to the PBA. But Arwind Santos, Dennis Miranda and Mark Isip will be back to lead the Wizards.

The Knights, who finished near-bottom last conference, retooled its roster with the addition of former AMP-Ateneo shooter Emerson Oreta and Granny Goose's Ardy Larong and Ron Capati.

But Toyota Otis will continue to go to Ronjay Enrile, Mark Macapagal and Mark Andaya.

Just like the Knights, the odds are stacked against Nenaco today. The Nash Racela-coached Lions will try to rally behind Jerome Paterno, Jeff Bombeo and Yousif Aljamal. *Jasmine W. Payo*

GAMES TODAY
(*Makati Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Nenaco vs Welcoat
4 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs Magnolia

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◀ BEFORE

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- Ronald, 21 years old

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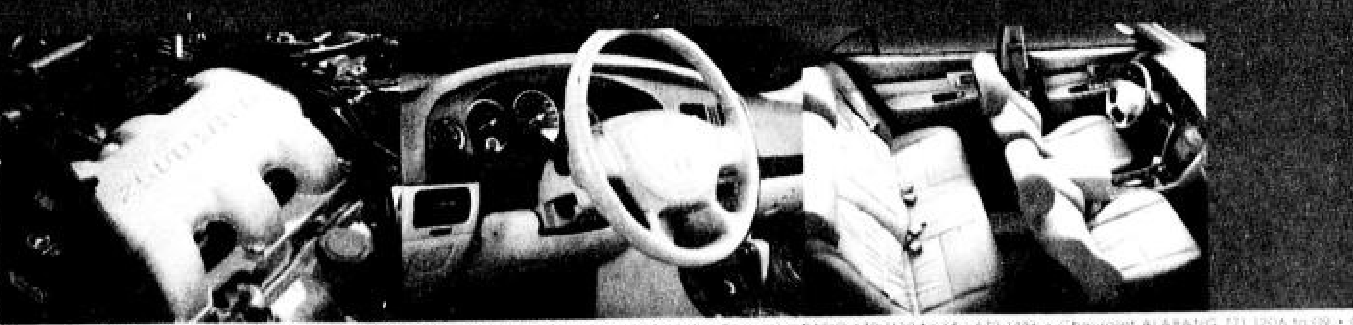

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Nestea volley Vis-Min elims blast off today

THE VISAYAS and Mindanao elimination legs of the Nestea Beach Volley 2005 fire off today at the sand court of La Salle Greenhills.

Forty teams from colleges and universities in the Visayas and Mindanao are vying for the right to compete in the semifinal and championship rounds in Boracay slated May 5 to 7.

The Visayas contingent will be led by defending men's champion University of San Jose-Recoletos and reigning women's champion Southwestern University.

Flying the flag for Mindanao are teams led by Ateneo de Davao University, Davao Doctors College, Holy Cross of Davao College, Mahardika Institute of Technology and Mindanao State University.

Last week, the men's and women's teams of St. Benilde and Far Eastern as well as the men's team of Adamson and St. Francis of Assisi and the women's teams of Philippine Christian University and University of Baguio booked semifinal slots in Boracay.

PSC wants pampered, well-trained athletes

By Musong R. Castillo

A NEW breed of Filipino athlete. Well-fed, well-trained, well-conditioned, mentally prepared.

This is what the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee want to develop as they agreed to upgrade the athletes' training facilities and take care of their emotional and mental preparations.

Scientific training, now the norm in many countries as well as professional sports abroad, will be applied as the athletes move to their new lodgings at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City in the middle of this month.

"We need to correct their (athletes) emotions, their mental preparations, if we want to come up with a new breed of athletes," said PSC officer-in-charge Butch Ramirez yesterday.

"If cockfighting and horse racing can use science in preparing [for a fight or a race], it will certainly apply well to our national athletes."

RAMIREZ: New breed

Physiologists and psychologists will be hired by the PSC, which had earlier enlisted the services of nutritionist Sanny Rose Orbeta to take care of the athletes' dietary requirement.

The PSC has raised the athletes' food allocation by P100 a day to P350, apart from providing each one of them with multivitamins.

Meanwhile, Ramirez yesterday confirmed an INQUIRER report on the bogus national athletes being used as bodyguards or escorts by certain National Sports Association officials.

Ramirez said the PSC has the power to deduct "all expenses incurred by these people in the past" from the future budgets of the NSAs found to have employed these athletes.

"Effectively, they have robbed our agency of valuable resources," Ramirez said. "It's a scam."

2 games up as Spring-NBC caging begins

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
5 p.m.—Opening Rites
5 p.m.—Laguna vs Taguig
7 p.m.—Parañaque vs Cavite

LAGUNA Spring renews its rivalry with Forward Taguig today as the Spring Cooking Oil-NBC (National Basketball Conference) final North pre-season series kicks off at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Spring of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro and Mayor Freddie Tinga's Taguig cagers clash at 5:30 p.m. after the 30-minute opening ceremony.

Two new teams—the Parañaque Jets of Vice Mayor and actor-TV host Anjo Yllana and the Cavite Insurers of Bacoor Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar—will square off in the main game at 7 p.m.

The fifth team in the short series sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines is the RP Cebuana Lhuillier squad, which is preparing for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games set in Manila late this year.

Taguig and Spring figured in tight matches in last year's NBC national championship with Mayor Tinga's charges prevailing over Spring in their best-of-three clash for the North title.

Taguig eventually finished runner-up to the Skygo/Sirlitz-backed defending champion Tribu Sugbu.

Parañaque coach Jun da Jose pins his hopes on ex-PBA star Bong Alvarez and PMI Admirals Nino Marquez and Larry Rodriguez. Also seeing action for the Jets are show biz star Richard Gomez, Jomari Yllana, Antonio Aquitania and Wendell Ramos, and ex-Red Bull Barakos Rollie Basilides and Jovy Sese.

Samsung jungolf tour resumes in Pines City

BAGUIO—The 2005 Samsung Jungolf Tour resumes at the Camp John Hay course today with the Ryder Cup-style format pitting the Red team against the Blue squad.

Two sides of 32 players each will duel in the alternate shot format in today's first round, then return tomorrow for the best-ball scramble. The tourney winds up Thursday with singles play.

Leading the Reds in the event also supported by Philippine Airlines and Unilever are Cyna Rodriguez, Crystal Superal and Paulina Sotto as captains. Aaron Dimabuyu, Wolen Superal and Steven Limandibrata spearhead the Blue squad.

The Superals are coming off impressive wins in last week's Jungolf Club Championships where Wolen bagged the overall individual plum in Division II play at Camp Aguinaldo and Crystal prevailed in the Class B division at Mt. Malarayat.

This marks the first time the Ryder Cup format will be used in the summer circuit, a move Jungolf president Raoul Lachica said is intended to instill the value of teamwork.

The opposing teams:

RED—Team captains: Cyna Rodriguez, Crystal Superal, Paulina Sotto; Members: Cho Kin Sik, Kim Beon Keon, Tony Boy Diaz de Rivera, Nico Monsalve, Rance Paglin, Manuel Bartolome, Kyle Kortiz, Joseph Aranas, Josef Viscocho, Jenric Tamamao, Matthew Quiban, Justin Lerma, Charlene Abalos, Michael Limandibrata, Jemar Capili, Marvi Monsalve, Juan Paolo Flores, Justin Pe, Ann Sabater, Nash Paz, Princess Superal, Paulo Reyes, Nathalie Limandibrata, Ahn Sieun, Felicia Medalla, Chris Cartwright, Ryan Monsalve, Annika Martinez

BLUE—Team captains: Aaron Dimabuyu, Wolen Superal, Steven Limandibrata; Members: Mike Buenda, Yin Yeon Jong, Nicole Martinez, Lawrence Celestino, Chris dela Cruz, Kenneth Kortiz, Kirby Lachica, Sungbin Yoon, Lemuel Agbanlog, Devon Swart, Mara Monsalve, Jomar Austria, Gus Pacheco, Ariana Martinez, Niki Paz, Aristeo Mata, Robert Vallete Loreen Abalos, Alfonso Reyes, Kim Mingi, Gerald Mactal, Marco Ludovice, Chris Cartwright, Ivan Monsalve, Ryan Monsalve, Joaquin Lerma, Francis Marquez, Gabrielle Salvador

SPORTSWATCH

Monolith 5 unscathed in Boysen Cup

MONOLITH Construction emerged on top of the leaderboard after nine days of hostilities in the Boysen Paints Cup of the PCFBL-Aces Basketball Tournament at the Tanduay Gym in Quiapo, Manila. The unbeaten Monolith squad downed Omni Yatai, 93-70, Davies Paints, 113-59, Boysen Paints, 86-66, and Ironcon Builders, 92-82, to install itself as the favorite to win this year's title. Running second in the month-long tournament are PCFBL (Philippine-Chinese Friendship Basketball League) Selection, Boysen Paints and Ironcon Builders with identical 3-1 win-loss record. PCFBL's lone defeat was inflicted by RBT-Techwerk, 79-96, during the tournament opener last Feb. 27, while Monolith dealt the only setback of both Boysen Paints and Ironcon. RBT-Techwerk is 3-2 after scoring a victory over PCFBL, bowing to Boysen Paints, 85-98, and Ironcon, 129-124, before posting back-to-back wins over Alpha 7, 108-102, and Welcoat Paints, 102-93. Welcoat Paints follows Techwerk in the standings with a 2-3 record. Next were Davies Paints (1-3), and Alpha 7 and Omni Yatai (0-4).

BEST goes to Davao, Bacolod

MILO BEST brings its successful basketball program to Davao and Bacolod cities this week. Youth basketball classes are scheduled at the Ateneo Sports Complex in Davao and at the St. John's Institute Activities Center in Bacolod from Monday up to Saturday. Interested parties may call Peregrino Alicante at 0918-2313719 and 2895925 in Davao and Joanne Soto (0917-3005160), Jed Soto (0917-3014190) and Nenette Santos (034) 4350575 in Bacolod. The sessions in Mendez, Cavite, have been reset for today until April 10 on the request of students. Contact persons in Mendez are Froderick Bael, Verna Romero and Lorena Viado (046) 4130536.

Quitara, Olivarez whip Milo net rivals

IMUS, Cavite—Club bet Lexter Quitara routed Akiko de Guzman, 6-1, 6-1, and Eric Olivarez Jr. edged Claudio Canlas, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, Sunday to lead the first-day winners in the unisex 10-under division of the 2005 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and regional workshop at the Imus Tennis Club here. In the boys' 12-under play, Michael Alza nipped Arjohn dela Cruz, 5-7, 6-3, 7-5, and Calvin Canlas tripped Kenjie Kaiklian, 7-6, 4-6, 6-3 in the Milo netfest organized by CTW, supported by adidas and sanctioned by Philta. In the boys' 14-under class, Kyle Cordero blanked Leaf Aranzaso, 6-0, 6-0; Akio Sy demolished Gilbert Alza, 6-1, 6-0, and Kim Ivor Saraza ousted Michael Tamayo, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2. Meanwhile, Reymond Padigos blasted John Quinatadcan, 6-2, 6-0, in the boys' 16-under event.

NCA 7-cock derby resumes at Big Dome

THE NATIONAL Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Cock Derby resumes today at the Araneta Coliseum with more than 60 fights scheduled. Hosts are Jun and Rudy Jingco, Jet Fernando, Madlambayan Brothers, John Capinpin and Ruel Feliciano. The 3-cock elimination is set at 4 p.m. and the 4-cock championship round on Thursday. Patrick Antonio topped the derby leg last March 10 after his entry, PEBR Complexor 3000 Mulawin IV tallied six wins and one draw. Placing second with five points each were Antonio and Jun Santiago, Rep. Gerry Boy Espina, Jingco Brothers and Albert Dichavez and Jun Santiago.

Game Ka Na Ba blockbuster slated

EIGHTY-TWO entries have reserved cockhouses for the Game Ka Na Ba 5-Cock Derby slated April 30 and May 2, 4 and 6 at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. Organizers said they expect the number of entries to reach 300. The latest batch of registrants include Pasay's Jeff Chua, who won the grand prize in Roligon's 501 Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan last Saturday. Chua's black red Hatch registered an impressive clocking of 7.8 seconds. Derby host Rolly Ligon said the guaranteed prize is P2 million for an entry fee of P6,600. The fastest kill champion will drive home an imported Isuzu Big Horn 4x4 turbo diesel. For inquiries, call 8332275, 8331638 or 8529812.

RACING TIPS

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Race 1—1. En Carta 2. Daddy's Girl 3. Wild Orphan 4. Best in Class
Race 2—1. Precious Moment 2. Hale and Hearty 3 Aminin 4. Mesmerize
Race 3—1. Fine Offer 2. Real Material 3. Rebound 4. Sham Sham/Skip Away 5. Amuridik
Race 4—1. Semper Spirit 2. Don Paolo 3. Concorde
Race 5—1. Hakuna Matata 2. Hit the Wire/Red Bells 3. Mas Que Nada 4. Full of Success 5. Silent Wind
Race 6—1. Boxster 2. Sir Pierre 3. Classic Royale 4. Roughneck
Race 7—1. Stradivarius 2. Words of Joy 3. Dancing Slew 4. Pivotal 5. Tenacity
Race 8—1. Sa Wakas 2. Legally Blonde 3. Native Prince

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Showbiz No. 1 (4.25 PM)	Gatekeepers (5.10 PM)	Gundam Seed (5.35 PM)	The Road To Stardom	TV Patrol		Spirits	Krystala	Hiram	Save The Last Dance	Til Death Do Us Part	Bora			Insider
NBN		Taiwan Winner TV Shopping		Value Vision	Teledyaryo	Value Vision		MMDA On The Road		Network Forum		Teledyaryo		Family Rosary Crusade		Paco Park Presents		Auto Focus	
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	KNN	Anime Ring Kasho		Anime Ring Kasho		Sentro	Lizzie Mcguire	Three Blind Dates		Wow Mall		Big News	The Probe Team Documentaries		Race Hour	Billboard On-Air
GMA 7		Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Joyride	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Knock Out	Tyler Hungry Heart	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin		Full House	Stairway To Heaven	Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	8 Simple Rules	Malcolm In The Middle	NBA On RPN					Newswatch Now	David Blaine		
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Home Shopping Network		Mosconi Cup					IBC News Tonite	Up Close And Personal	
Solar		Wwe Raw				Mutant League	Heavy Gear	TBA	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Beat The Geeks	Reno 911	Drawn Together	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	TBA		WWE Velocity	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Nick Mix						Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Top Of The Pops	MYX Remakes	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Good Morning Miami	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	JKX	Simple Life	One Tree Hill		Temptation Island		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One		Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon				Madrasta				Sana Dalawa Ang Puso Ko				Walang Iwanan Peksman				Sanggano	
Studio 23				PBL Game 2				Ragnarok	Project Arms	Wazzup Wazzup	Angel			Smallville		News Central	Oprah		The Men's Room
AXN		CSI: Miami				Fear Factor		7 Days (Season III)		Pensacola		The Contender		When Animals Attack		The Amazing Race 5		Maximum Exposure	
Star World	Frasier	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Charmed		Wild Card		Miss Match		Friends	Charmed
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		Air Crash Investigation		Seconds From Disaster		Interpol Investigates		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles Dr. Brady Barr	Wow		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Air Crash Investigation		Seconds From Disaster	
Solar Sports				IBF Thailand Open '05				ATP Open 13 '05 S-final Ancic vs. Ljubicic						Hardwood Classics Bulls @ Rockets '02					NBA Inside Stuff
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert							Back To Basics		
HBO	Punch-Drunk Love			Fair Game			Hey Arnold! The Movie			The Rundown (6.50 PM)			Undefeated			Six Feet Under 42. Parallel Play		Hulk (10.50PM)	
Star Movies				Marines (3.55 PM)			Hildegarde			The Company (7.05 PM)				The Princess Diaries				Submarines (10.55PM)	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock		Shaman King	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Dexter's Laboratory	Mr T	Josie And The Pussycats	The Superfriends	
ESPN		Eng. Premier League Highlights 04/05		ESPN Great Outdoor Games				Winter X Games IX				Sportscenter Asia	Premier Snooker League				Skins Billiard C'ship		Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/ Untalkative Bunny	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Lilo & Stitch/ Untalkative Bunny				My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	America's Funniest Home Video	According To Jim		
Cinemax			The Hunt For Red October					The Long Island Incident			Sniper 2			Hard To Kill			The Tuxedo (10.35PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Just Cause		Hans Christian Anderson - The Fairytaler Cartoon	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	Bewitched	Judging Amy		Just Cause		Picking Up & Dropping Off			Missing (10.35PM)		Judging Amy (11.25PM)
Discovery Channel		Civilisations				Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Science Mysteries	
Sports Plus		Bell South Classic Day2				Italia Serie A highlights 10		Arena Football Los Angeles @ Orlando						NCAA C'ship				Golf Academy 2001	Bikini Destination
EWTN	Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Angelus (3.15PM)	Mysteries Of The Rosary	My Little Angels	Angel Force	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Fr Groeschel	Catholic Morality & The Catechism	EWTN Gallery	The Journey Home		Does The Church Still Teach That	Lord, Have Mercy	Daily Mass		Angelus (10.15PM)	We Are One Body	Web Of Faith	

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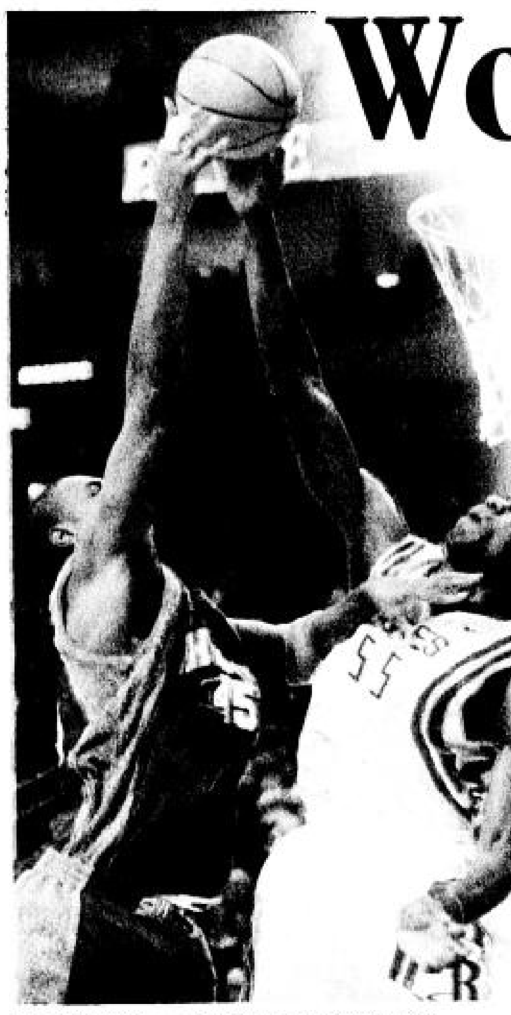
Wolves rip Kings



HOUSTON center Dikembe Mutombo thwarts Phoenix's Steven Hunter in the first quarter. The Suns defeated the Rockets, 91-78, and continued to lead the race for the NBA's best record and homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs. AP

SACRAMENTO, California—Kevin Garnett had 30 points and 13 rebounds, Latrell Sprewell added 23 points and the Minnesota Timberwolves got another big victory for their playoff hopes, beating the Sacramento Kings, 112-100, Sunday.

Sam Cassell scored 13 of his 16 points in the first half for the Timberwolves, who have won four straight regular-season games in Sacramento. Minnesota made 53 percent of its shots and took a 16-point lead early in the fourth quarter before holding on to extend the longest current winning streak of any opponent at Arco Arena.

The ninth-place Timberwolves (39-35) stayed three games behind Denver and Memphis for the final two Western Conference playoff spots. The Grizzlies beat the Los Angeles Lakers, 102-82, Sunday night, while the Nuggets were idle.

Peja Stojakovic scored 25 points for the Kings, who grabbed a season-high 24 offensive rebounds. Sacramento dropped into a tie for fifth place in the conference with the Houston Rockets, which lost to Phoenix, 91-78, later in the day.

The Suns (56-17) gained a step ahead of the Miami Heat and the San Antonio Spurs in the race for the league's best record and the home-court edge throughout the playoffs.

In Washington, Stephen Jackson and Anthony Johnson each scored 15 points to help the Indiana Pacers overcome a 13-point third-quarter deficit and nip the Wizards, 79-76, for their third straight triumph.

The loss denied the Wizards a chance to secure their first winning season since 1997-98, when they went 42-40 and were swept from the first round of the playoffs by the Michael Jordan-led Chicago Bulls. The setback also put coach Eddie Jordan's 100th career victory on hold.

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 37 points and Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 21 in a 100-80 rout of the Dallas mavericks that kept the Cavaliers tied with Indiana for the sixth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

In Boston, Allen Iverson scored 38 points for the Philadelphia 76ers, who blew most of a 26-point first-quarter lead but held on to a 97-93 victory over the Celtics to move three games behind Boston in the race for the Atlantic Division crown.

Philadelphia, which had lost three straight, moved a game ahead of Orlando for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Elsewhere, Milwaukee defeated New York, 106-102; Golden State surprised Seattle, 101-92; The Los Angeles Clippers trounced Atlanta, 111-91 and Detroit rapped Toronto, 113-103.

In Oakland, California, Jason Richardson scored 22 points and Baron Davis had 19 points and nine assists in Golden State's victory over cold-shooting Seattle.

The playoff-bound Sonics missed a chance to clinch the franchise's first division title since winning their third straight Pacific Division crown in 1997-98, getting outhustled on the boards and loose balls and outplayed on both ends. *AP*

Federer bags Nasdaq title

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida—Roger Federer waited until late in the third set Sunday to unleash his most forceful forehand, raising the racket and slamming it to the hardcourt at his feet.

This was the winner of the ATP Tour sportsmanship award, on the ropes and pitching a fit in the final of the Nasdaq-100 Open.

The outburst seemed to help. Twice two points from defeat, the top-ranked Federer rallied for his fifth tournament title this year, beating 18-year-old Rafael Nadal, 2-6, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (5), 6-3, 6-1.

"I was missing one opportunity after the other," Federer said. "I really felt like I was climbing uphill all the time, and I just had enough. So I threw my racket hard. Maybe it did me good and I kind of woke up. Who knows?"

Facing the stylish Federer, Nadal showed up with a flashy outfit and game to match. He led 4-1 in the third set and 5-3 in the ensuing tiebreaker, but Federer's shots became more accurate and aggressive as he overtook a tiring Nadal in the 3-hour, 42-minute marathon.

The performance by Nadal, the youngest men's finalist in tournament history, was no fluke. The left-hander was a Davis Cup hero in Spain's victory over the United States last December, and he'll be among the favorites at this year's French Open—and future major events as well.

"For me this was a big match," Federer said, "because I know what a great player he will be one day." *AP*

Phil strikes in BellSouth

DULUTH, Georgia—Tuning up for his Masters defense, Phil Mickelson shot a 7-under 65 on Sunday to move within a stroke of leader Scott McCarron with one round to play in the rain-delayed BellSouth Classic.

McCarron, the 1997 and 2001 at the TPC at Sugarloaf, shot his second straight 69 for a 6-under 138 total on the Greg Norman-designed course.

Mickelson opened the day tied for 61st after a 74 on Saturday in the opening round that was plagued by rain, sleet, snow and 60 kph (40 mph) wind. *AP*

Stockinger marks b-day with a bang

STOCKINGER

BIREL-FILA driver Marlon Stockinger struck hardest on his birthday Sunday, sweeping his two races in impressive style in the second leg of the 2005 Shell Helix Superkarting Series at the Boom na Boom Kart Trak at the CCP Complex on Roxas Boulevard.

Stockinger, displaying maturity and perfect timing, upstaged Asian karting queen Michele Bumgarner and reigning Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli in bagging both the ICA Open and Formula Rotax Max Seniors titles.

Stockinger started fifth on the grid of the Formula Rotax Seniors, took the slimmest of openings in the eighth lap to overtake Cebu Racing Group's Guidicelli and pressed on to pass Ivan Carapiet, also of CRG, in the 15th lap.

Stockinger timed 15 minutes and 7.861 seconds for the victory.

Carapiet checked in just 0.156 seconds behind, with Marty Aguilar of Bosch Intelco finishing third and Guidicelli and Allan Uy winding up fourth and fifth, respectively, in the event sponsored by the Pilipinas Shell, Denso Iridium Power, Bridgestone by Phil. Allied Ent. Corp., DMCI Homes, Eastway Motorcycle Racing, Khaos and Aviva Insurance.

Stockinger was more impressive in the Open class race, battling Guidicelli and Bumgarner for the front in the first 23 laps before pulling ahead to stay as his rivals figured in a minor collision.

A cornering maneuver that got entangled her with Guidicelli dealt a big blow to Bumgarner's bid with three laps left.

Stockinger clocked 14:12.419 minutes, 2.344 seconds in front of Guidicelli.

Indy Villalon, also of Birel-Fila, finished third, just ahead of Arvin Drueco and Bumgarner.

Paolo Eslao topped the KT Light class over Jeje Villena and Onemig Bondoc.

Beer in the NBA

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I THINK it was 10 years ago when the Los Angeles Lakers last failed to advance to the second round. Or was it 1994, if not 1995?

I cite this amid the specter of a clear and present danger that the Lakers, the long time darling of many Filipinos based in California, face at the moment.

With barely a dozen games left for Los Angeles, the prospects are bleak for a Laker resurgence and escape getting eliminated. The NBA is winding up its elimination series and the Lakers are more than five games behind the team they want to dislodge for the right to barge into the playoffs.

Well, I can almost imagine now the long faces our brothers and sisters there may have to wear once the Lakers get the boot. It is almost legend that many Filipinos immediately call in sick the morning after every defeat that Los Angeles suffers in the NBA.

Not very long ago, I was at the Staples Center in Los Angeles watching the Lakers play the Clippers. In case you still don't know, both teams are the favorite squads in California and, rightly so, each time they are to clash, NBA drumbeaters hype it up as the "Battle of the Angels."

Mike Magturo had the two tickets for the game reserved for his Dad, Jun, and me long before the clash could begin. I think the reservation was made two months before the game.

But no problem, though.

Mike Magturo is a member of the NBA Seasons Pass Club, a privilege that assures every member two tickets with reserved seats for every Laker game played at the Staples Center. Those seats exclusively belong to Mike Magturo for the entire season. They are his for as long as he wants them. If he gets fed up owning them, he can either sell them or gift them to a friend, or even pass them down as inheritance to his children.

Mike Magturo's seats are not exactly your great idea of seats in an NBA game. They are in the bleachers. But in America, an NBA seat, wherever it is, is as precious as your eyesight.

Having placed myself in the bleachers was a rediscovery of sorts. It made me feel brand new again.

Back in the olden days when I was not yet a sportswriter, seeing myself watching basketball games—mostly the Micaa matches—felt like heaven already, even if I was holed up in the bleachers. Just by being there, being where the action was, why that was a good enough reason to enjoy every minute of my stint inside the cavernous Rizal Coliseum.

It's been years, decades actually, since I had had that experience. And what a way to reenact it—at the Staples Center yet.

The Staples Center, home of the Lakers, is not really an architectural marvel, although it has escalators to get you to the upper levels of the structure quicker than usual. Its saving grace, though, are its large, open-air verandahs that give you the luxury to wallow in beer and barbecue and cigarettes under the stars at the halftime break.

Jun and I had beer there at the half, mingling with American folk not really deep into NBA talk during the break but more inclined to talking about their day at the office than how Laker Kobe Bryant was faring in the first two quarters.

After sometime, one fan tried to pick up a conversation with me and, being my nature, I obliged.

"How's your boss today?" he asked.

"Fine," I said.

"No fights today?"

"None," I said.

"Good for you," he said. "Quit my job today."

He raised his glass. I raised mine, too.

That's when Jun said it was time for us to go back to our seats.

Armed with our beer poured into two plastic cups, Jun and I hurried back to the game.

Kobe Bryant had scored a jumper just in time when we reclaimed our position, which was really quite far from the action down below, but what the heck. This was the NBA, the real stuff.

And who won?

Can't remember.

The beer tasted fine. It had to.

The two cups of beer cost me more than one thousand pesos.

S.Tagalog Rotary tourney tees off at John Hay Friday

THE DISTRICT 3820 Rotary International of Southern Tagalog will hold the fourth and last leg of the Centennial Governor's Golf Cup on Friday at the Camp John Hay Golf and Country Club in Baguio City.

Big prizes, including a motorbike donated by former district governor Chito Recto for anyone who scores a hole in one, are up for grabs in the tournament sponsored by the Philippine Golfers Association of New York, Jetbest Multi-lines Corp., RAM Builders, Rural Bank of San Antonio, former district governor Bobby Legaspi, Lipa Games and Amusement Corp., JSG Construction, Emil Rose Grill and Mark Mendoza.

Raul Montealto, president of the Rotary Club of Lipa, District 3790 governor John Paul Jaypee Cadaing, Edwin Gardiola and past president Abe Avena are helping run the tournament.

Invited to hit the ceremonial drive are former district governor Bobby Legaspi, Fong Hoe Beng, Chito Recto, District governor Mike Lirio and District president Raul Montealto.

Tickets are available at Camp John Hay Pro Shop at P2,500, inclusive of meals and giveaways. A discounted rate of P1,250 is offered to Camp John Hay members. For inquiries, call Abe Avena at 0917-504-0843.

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Not the same Adina

NOTE from the editor: INQUIRER Libre desk editor Armin Adina is not the "Armin Adina/Inquirer" who has been posting stories and sundry statements on several message boards on the Internet. Adina writes only for the Philippine Daily Inquirer and INQUIRER Libre. Net surfers are advised to check said postings against these publications and inq7.net, to confirm the veracity of the stories and messages.

Young comers in three new films

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE HIT action-thriller "XXX," made a star of **Vin Diesel**. Its sequel, "XXX2: The Next Level," has another action comer in **Ice Cube**. Will the film franchise's star-making magic also work for him?

To make sure it does, director **Lee Tamahori** (he megged the James Bond blockbuster, "Die Another Day") has retained the original film's edgy attitude. In addition, the movie's new hero, XXX agent Darius Stone, is made acutely street-wise and provided with a colorful background that includes extensive military experience.

Ice Cube clinched the part because he displayed those qualities in abundance in his previous movie outings, like "Three Kings" and "Anaconda."

The sequel's action is excitingly set in Washington DC, thus giving its story a strong and timely backdrop. Making the conflict even more daunting is the fact that the movie's villains operate within the corridors of power.

Samuel L. Jackson returns in the role of Augustus Gibbons, the tough-as-nails National Security Agency operative. New cast members include: **Nona Gaye** as Lola, Darius' ex-lover who owns a high-end car dealership that turns out to be vital to his success.

Scott Speedman is headstrong FBI agent Kyle Steele. **Peter Strauss** as strong-willed President Sanford. And **Willem Dafoe** as Sanford's former adversary, Secretary of Defense George Deckert.

Color switch

PROVIDING a different kind of entertainment is the new comedy "Guess Who," in which **Bernie Mac** plays **Zoe Saldaña**'s overprotective dad. The peace in their black household is shattered when he discovers that her fiance is white.

Yes, the new film is a twist on "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," with the skin colors switched. **Ashton Kutcher** plays the fiance, and he's got his work cut out for him to prove to Mac that he deserves to marry his beloved daughter, his skin color notwithstanding.

Mac and Kutcher have been around in the TV-film biz, but Zoe Saldaña is the fresh factor in the movie's stellar equation.

She's a definite comer, having been honored with a young Hollywood "One to Watch" award for her eye-catching performances in "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "The Terminal." "Guess Who" gives her her biggest role to date, so she has a lot riding on the film's success.

Real life

FINALLY, for lovers of big-screen action epics, "Kingdom of Heaven" features characters based on real-life protagonists in the Crusades, including Balian of Ibelin, a Crusader knight who led the defense of Jerusalem in 1187, and the Muslim leader Saladin, who defeated him. **Ridley Scott** directs.

The film stars **Orlando Bloom** as Balian, a French blacksmith who reluctantly joined the Crusade after his wife's suicide. Once in Jerusalem, where the world's three monotheistic religions coexisted, he fell in love with the king's sister.

Hip-hop marathon

FROM 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on April 9, slam-dunk to the beat in an all-out hip-hop P52 marathon at Red Door-Resto, Grill, Cocktails on Pasig Boulevard, Pasay City. The ultimate interactive basketball video game tournament on the P52 will bring the house down, with the band K 2417 playing some of today's hottest tunes to highlight the awarding ceremony later at night.

Text 0915351-2984 or e-mail studio_d_events@yahoo.com.

'Around the Bend'

JORDAN Roberts' "Around the Bend," starring **Michael Caine, Christopher Walken** and **Josh Lucas**, has been released on DVD.

"Around the Bend" won the Jury Award at the 2004 Montreal World Film Festival, and the Best Feature Film trophy at the 2004 San Diego Film Festival.

Regional search

THE SEARCH for Ms Philippines Region V1 is ongoing. Application forms are available at Club Paraw, Boracay Island; call **Jocelyn Cordero** in Bacolod, 034-4332515; **Alfonso Bediones** in Iloilo City, 033-621-0042; **Amy de la Cruz** in Manila, 02-7583228. Deadline for submission of entry forms is April 15.

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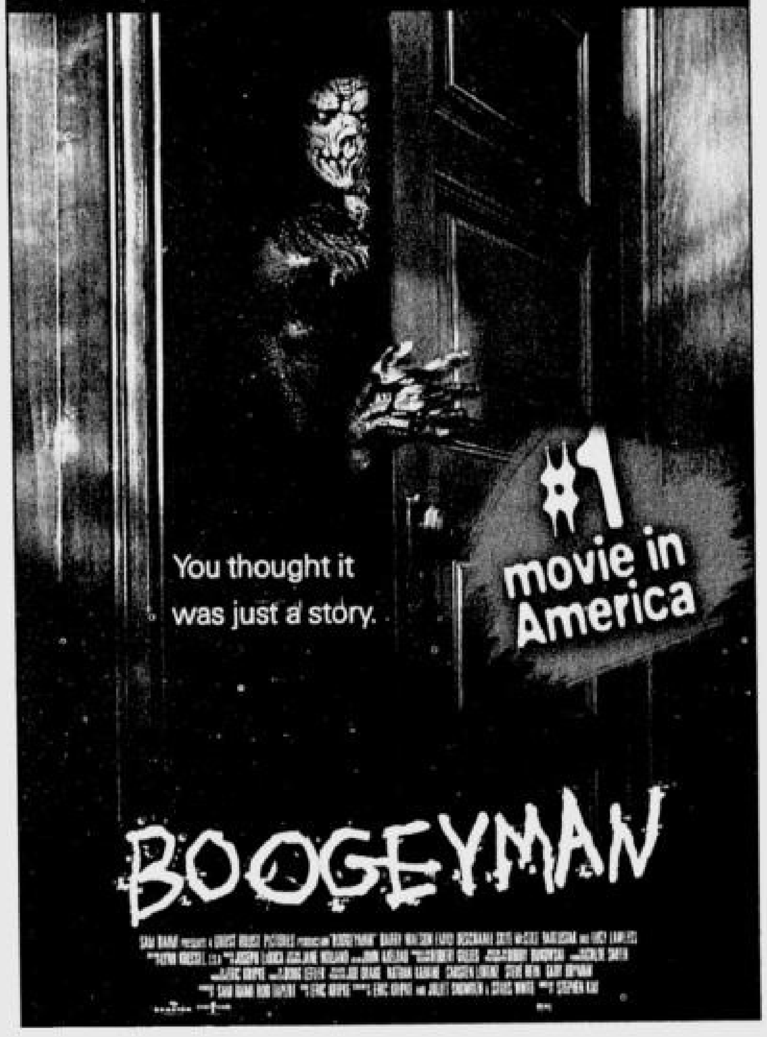

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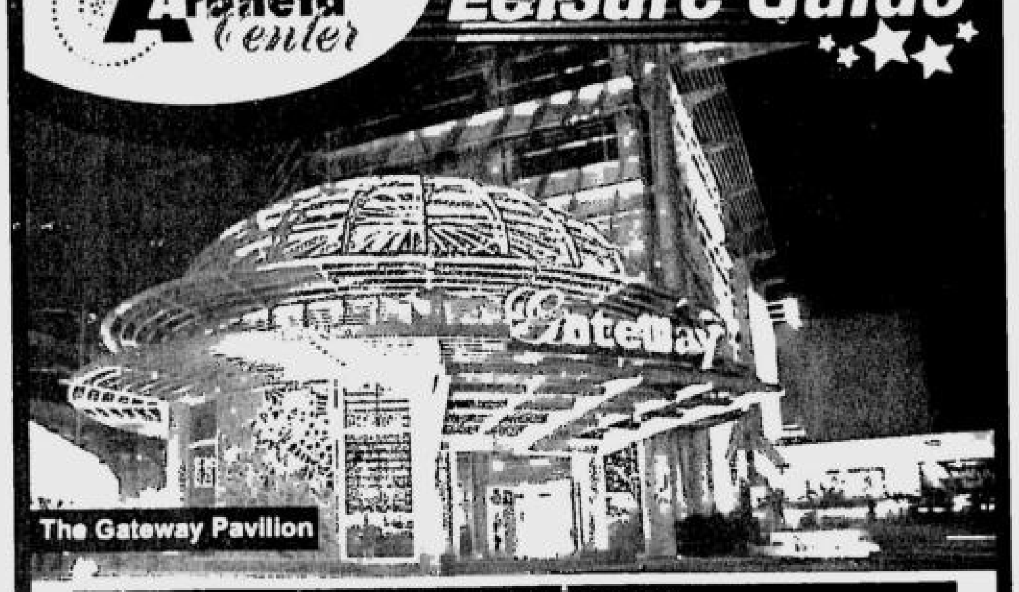

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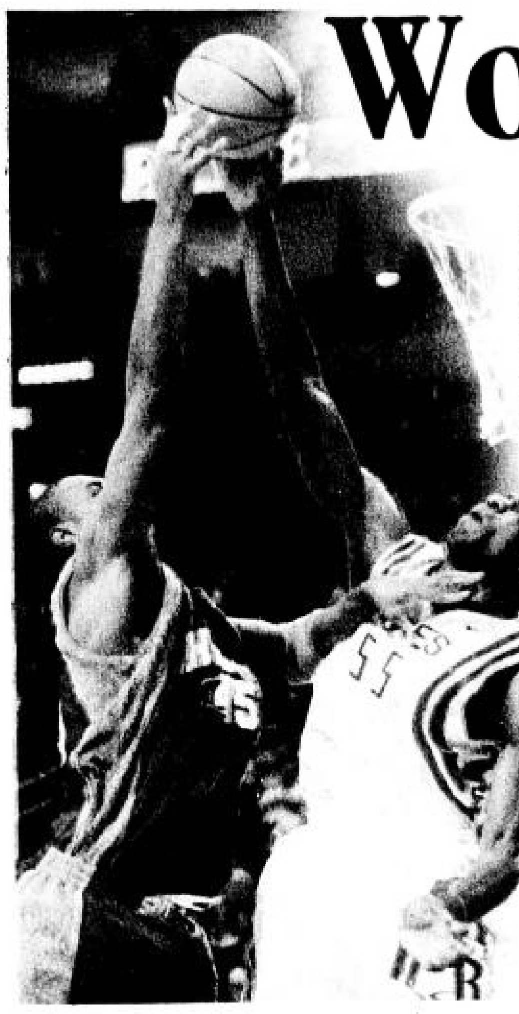
2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE APR.6
4:45pm SHELL vs. RED BULL 7:35pm STA LUCIA vs. GINEBRA
2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE APR.10
4:15pm ALASKA vs FEDEX 6:35pm SAN MIGUEL vs. GINEBRA
THE CASCADES: LIVE IN MANILA
April 15 Friday, 8pm
RIVERMAYA & KITCHIE NADAL LIVE!
April 16, Saturday, 8pm
CENTER EVENTS
SALE EVENTS | Fornarina- Upper Ground Floor, Gateway Mall (ongoing until April 15)
NEW STORES Mango and Figaro, both at the Upper Ground Floor of Gateway Mall
PERFORMANCES Tropicana on April 8, Buhay on April 10. Shanice Michaels on April 9 at The Pavilion of Gateway Mall
LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

Wolves rip Kings



HOUSTON center Dikembe Mutombo thwarts Phoenix's Steven Hunter in the first quarter. The Suns defeated the Rockets, 91-78, and continued to lead the race for the NBA's best record and homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs. AP

SACRAMENTO, California—Kevin Garnett had 30 points and 13 rebounds, Latrell Sprewell added 23 points and the Minnesota Timberwolves got another big victory for their playoff hopes, beating the Sacramento Kings, 112-100, Sunday.

Sam Cassell scored 13 of his 16 points in the first half for the Timberwolves, who have won four straight regular-season games in Sacramento. Minnesota made 53 percent of its shots and took a 16-point lead early in the fourth quarter before holding on to extend the longest current winning streak of any opponent at Arco Arena.

The ninth-place Timberwolves (39-35) stayed three games behind Denver and Memphis for the final two Western Conference playoff spots. The Grizzlies beat the Los Angeles Lakers, 102-82, Sunday night, while the Nuggets were idle.

Peja Stojakovic scored 25 points for the Kings, who grabbed a season-high 24 offensive rebounds. Sacramento dropped into a tie for fifth place in the conference with the Houston Rockets, which lost to Phoenix, 91-78, later in the day.

The Suns (56-17) gained a step ahead of the Miami Heat and the San Antonio Spurs in the race for the league's best record and the homecourt edge throughout the playoffs.

In Washington, Stephen Jackson and Anthony Johnson each scored 15 points to help the Indiana Pacers overcome a 13-point third-quarter deficit and nip the Wizards, 79-76, for their third straight triumph.

The loss denied the Wizards a chance to secure their first winning season since 1997-98, when they went 42-40 and were swept from the first round of the playoffs by the Michael Jordan-led Chicago Bulls. The setback also put coach Eddie Jordan's 100th career victory on hold.

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 37 points and Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 21 in a 100-80 rout of the Dallas mavericks that kept the Cavaliers tied with Indiana for the sixth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

In Boston, Allen Iverson scored 38 points for the Philadelphia 76ers, who blew most of a 26-point first-quarter lead but held on to a 97-93 victory over the Celtics to move three games behind Boston in the race for the Atlantic Division crown.

Philadelphia, which had lost three straight, moved a game ahead of Orlando for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Elsewhere, Milwaukee defeated New York, 106-102; Golden State surprised Seattle, 101-92; The Los Angeles Clippers trounced Atlanta, 111-91 and Detroit rapped Toronto, 113-103.

In Oakland, California, Jason Richardson scored 22 points and Baron Davis had 19 points and nine assists in Golden State's victory over cold-shooting Seattle.

The playoff-bound Sonics missed a chance to clinch the franchise's first division title since winning their third straight Pacific Division crown in 1997-98, getting outhustled on the boards and loose balls and outplayed on both ends. *AP*

Federer bags Nasdaq title

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida—Roger Federer waited until late in the third set Sunday to unleash his most forceful forehand, raising the racket and slamming it to the hardcourt at his feet.

This was the winner of the ATP Tour sportsmanship award, on the ropes and pitching a fit in the final of the Nasdaq-100 Open.

The outburst seemed to help. Twice two points from defeat, the top-ranked Federer rallied for his fifth tournament title this year, beating 18-year-old Rafael Nadal, 2-6, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (5), 6-3, 6-1.

"I was missing one opportunity after the other," Federer said. "I really felt like I was climbing uphill all the time, and I just had enough. So I threw my racket hard. Maybe it did me good and I kind of woke up. Who knows?"

Facing the stylish Federer, Nadal showed up with a flashy outfit and game to match. He led 4-1 in the third set and 5-3 in the ensuing tiebreaker, but Federer's shots became more accurate and aggressive as he overtook a tiring Nadal in the 3-hour, 42-minute marathon.

The performance by Nadal, the youngest men's finalist in tournament history, was no fluke. The left-hander was a Davis Cup hero in Spain's victory over the United States last December, and he'll be among the favorites at this year's French Open—and future major events as well.

"For me this was a big match," Federer said, "because I know what a great player he will be one day." *AP*

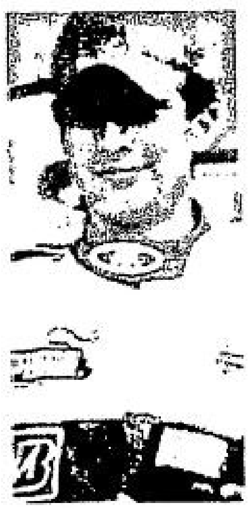
Phil strikes in BellSouth

DULUTH, Georgia—Tuning up for his Masters defense, Phil Mickelson shot a 7-under 65 on Sunday to move within a stroke of leader Scott McCarron with one round to play in the rain-delayed BellSouth Classic.

McCarron, the 1997 and 2001 at the TPC at Sugarloaf, shot his second straight 69 for a 6-under 138 total on the Greg Norman-designed course.

Mickelson opened the day tied for 61st after a 74 on Saturday in the opening round that was plagued by rain, sleet, snow and 60 kph (40 mph) wind. *AP*

Stockinger marks b-day with a bang



STOCKINGER

BIREL-FILA driver Marlon Stockinger struck hardest on his birthday Sunday, sweeping his two races in impressive style in the second leg of the 2005 Shell Helix Superkarting Series at the Boom na Boom Kart Trak at the CCP Complex on Roxas Boulevard.

Stockinger, displaying maturity and perfect timing, upstaged Asian karting queen Michele Bumgarner and reigning Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli in bagging both the ICA Open and Formula Rotax Max Seniors titles.

Stockinger started fifth on the grid of the Formula Rotax Seniors, took the slimmest of openings in the eighth lap to overtake Cebu Racing Group's Guidicelli and pressed on to pass Ivan Carapiet, also of CRG, in the 15th lap.

Stockinger timed 15 minutes and 7.861 seconds for the victory.

Carapiet checked in just 0.156 seconds behind, with Marty Aguilar of Bosch Intelco finishing third and Guidicelli and Allan Uy winding up fourth and fifth, respectively, in the event sponsored by the Pilipinas Shell, Denso Iridium Power, Bridgestone by Phil. Allied Ent. Corp., DMCI Homes, Eastway Motorcycle Racing, Khaos and Aviva Insurance.

Stockinger was more impressive in the Open class race, battling Guidicelli and Bumgarner for the front in the first 23 laps before pulling ahead to stay as his rivals figured in a minor collision.

A cornering maneuver that got entangled her with Guidicelli dealt a big blow to Bumgarner's bid with three laps left.

Stockinger clocked 14:12.419 minutes, 2.344 seconds in front of Guidicelli.

Indy Villalon, also of Birel-Fila, finished third, just ahead of Arvin Drueco and Bumgarner.

Paolo Eslao topped the KT Light class over Jeje Villena and Onemig Bondoc.

Beer in the NBA

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I THINK it was 10 years ago when the Los Angeles Lakers last failed to advance to the second round. Or was it 1994, if not 1995?

I cite this amid the specter of a clear and present danger that the Lakers, the long time darling of many Filipinos based in California, face at the moment.

With barely a dozen games left for Los Angeles, the prospects are bleak for a Laker resurgence and escape getting eliminated. The NBA is winding up its elimination series and the Lakers are more than five games behind the team they want to dislodge for the right to barge into the playoffs.

Well, I can almost imagine now the long faces our brothers and sisters there may have to wear once the Lakers get the boot. It is almost legend that many Filipinos immediately call in sick the morning after every defeat that Los Angeles suffers in the NBA.

Not very long ago, I was at the Staples Center in Los Angeles watching the Lakers play the Clippers. In case you still don't know, both teams are the favorite squads in California and, rightly so, each time they are to clash, NBA drumbeaters hype it up as the "Battle of the Angels."

Mike Magturo had the two tickets for the game reserved for his Dad, Jun, and me long before the clash could begin. I think the reservation was made two months before the game.

But no problem, though.

Mike Magturo is a member of the NBA Seasons Pass Club, a privilege that assures every member two tickets with reserved seats for every Laker game played at the Staples Center. Those seats exclusively belong to Mike Magturo for the entire season. They are his for as long as he wants them. If he gets fed up owning them, he can either sell them or gift them to a friend, or even pass them down as inheritance to his children.

Mike Magturo's seats are not exactly your great idea of seats in an NBA game. They are in the bleachers. But in America, an NBA seat, wherever it is, is as precious as your eyesight.

Having placed myself in the bleachers was a rediscovery of sorts. It made me feel brand new again.

Back in the olden days when I was not yet a sportswriter, seeing myself watching basketball games—mostly the Micaa matches—felt like heaven already, even if I was holed up in the bleachers. Just by being there, being where the action was, why that was a good enough reason to enjoy every minute of my stint inside the cavernous Rizal Coliseum.

It's been years, decades actually, since I had had that experience. And what a way to reenact it—at the Staples Center yet.

The Staples Center, home of the Lakers, is not really an architectural marvel, although it has escalators to get you to the upper levels of the structure quicker than usual. Its saving grace, though, are its large, open-air verandahs that give you the luxury to wallow in beer and barbecue and cigarettes under the stars at the halftime break.

Jun and I had beer there at the half, mingling with American folk not really deep into NBA talk during the break but more inclined to talking about their day at the office than how Laker Kobe Bryant was faring in the first two quarters.

After sometime, one fan tried to pick up a conversation with me and, being my nature, I obliged.

"How's your boss today?" he asked.

"Fine," I said.

"No fights today?"

"None," I said.

"Good for you," he said. "Quit my job today."

He raised his glass. I raised mine, too.

That's when Jun said it was time for us to go back to our seats.

Armed with our beer poured into two plastic cups, Jun and I hurried back to the game.

Kobe Bryant had scored a jumper just in time when we reclaimed our position, which was really quite far from the action down below, but what the heck. This was the NBA, the real stuff.

And who won?

Can't remember.

The beer tasted fine. It had to.

The two cups of beer cost me more than one thousand pesos.

S.Tagalog Rotary tourney tees off at John Hay Friday

THE DISTRICT 3820 Rotary International of Southern Tagalog will hold the fourth and last leg of the Centennial Governor's Golf Cup on Friday at the Camp John Hay Golf and Country Club in Baguio City.

Big prizes, including a motorbike donated by former district governor Chito Recto for anyone who scores a hole in one, are up for grabs in the tournament sponsored by the Philippine Golfers Association of New York, Jetbest Multi-lines Corp., RAM Builders, Rural Bank of San Antonio, former district governor Bobby Legaspi, Lipa Games and Amusement Corp., JSG Construction, Emil Rose Grill and Mark Mendoza.

Raul Montealto, president of the Rotary Club of Lipa, District 3790 governor John Paul Jaypee Cadaing, Edwin Gardiola and past president Abe Avena are helping run the tournament.

Invited to hit the ceremonial drive are former district governor Bobby Legaspi, Fong Hoe Beng, Chito Recto, District governor Mike Lirio and District president Raul Montealto.

Tickets are available at Camp John Hay Pro Shop at P2,500, inclusive of meals and giveaways. A discounted rate of P1,250 is offered to Camp John Hay members. For inquiries, call Abe Avena at 0917-504-0843.

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MTRCB: PG-13
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③ BE COOL
MTRCB: PG-13
10:50, 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
④ ROBOTS
MTRCB: GP
12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
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Not the same Adina

NOTE from the editor: INQUIRER Libre desk editor Armin Adina is not the "Armin Adina/Inquirer" who has been posting stories and sundry statements on several message boards on the Internet. Adina writes only for the Philippine Daily Inquirer and INQUIRER Libre. Net surfers are advised to check said postings against these publications and inq7.net, to confirm the veracity of the stories and messages.

Young comers in three new films

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE HIT action-thriller "XXX," made a star of **Vin Diesel**. Its sequel, "XXX2: The Next Level," has another action comer in **Ice Cube**. Will the film franchise's star-making magic also work for him?

To make sure it does, director **Lee Tamahori** (he megged the James Bond blockbuster, "Die Another Day") has retained the original film's edgy attitude. In addition, the movie's new hero, XXX agent Darius Stone, is made acutely street-wise and provided with a colorful background that includes extensive military experience.

Ice Cube clinched the part because he displayed those qualities in abundance in his previous movie outings, like "Three Kings" and "Anaconda."

The sequel's action is excitingly set in Washington DC, thus giving its story a strong and timely backdrop. Making the conflict even more daunting is the fact that the movie's villains operate within the corridors of power.

Samuel L. Jackson returns in the role of Augustus Gibbons, the tough-as-nails National Security Agency operative. New cast members include: **Nona Gaye** as Lola, Darius' ex-lover who owns a high-end car dealership that turns out to be vital to his success.

Scott Speedman is headstrong FBI agent Kyle Steele. **Peter Strauss** as strong-willed President Sanford. And **Willem Dafoe** as Sanford's former adversary, Secretary of Defense George Deckert.

Color switch

PROVIDING a different kind of entertainment is the new comedy "Guess Who," in which **Bernie Mac** plays **Zoe Saldaña's** overprotective dad. The peace in their black household is shattered when he discovers that her fiance is white.

Yes, the new film is a twist on "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," with the skin colors switched. **Ashton Kutcher** plays the fiance, and he's got his work cut out for him to prove to Mac that he deserves to marry his beloved daughter, his skin color notwithstanding.

Mac and Kutcher have been around in the TV-film biz, but Zoe Saldaña is the fresh factor in the movie's stellar equation.

She's a definite comer, having been honored with a young Hollywood "One to Watch" award for her eye-catching performances in "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "The Terminal." "Guess Who" gives her her biggest role to date, so she has a lot riding on the film's success.

Real life

FINALLY, for lovers of big-screen action epics, "Kingdom of Heaven" features characters based on real-life protagonists in the Crusades, including Balian of Ibelin, a Crusader knight who led the defense of Jerusalem in 1187, and the Muslim leader Saladin, who defeated him. **Ridley Scott** directs.

The film stars **Orlando Bloom** as Balian, a French blacksmith who reluctantly joined the Crusade after his wife's suicide. Once in Jerusalem, where the world's three monotheistic religions coexisted, he fell in love with the king's sister.

Hip-hop marathon

FROM 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on April 9, slam-dunk to the beat in an all-out hip-hop P52 marathon at Red Door-Resto, Grill, Cocktails on Pasig Boulevard, Pasay City. The ultimate interactive basketball video game tournament on the P52 will bring the house down, with the band K 2417 playing some of today's hottest tunes to highlight the awarding ceremony later at night.

Text 0915351-2984 or e-mail studio_d_events@yahoo.com.

'Around the Bend'

JORDAN **Roberts'** "Around the Bend," starring **Michael Caine, Christopher Walken** and **Josh Lucas**, has been released on DVD.

"Around the Bend" won the Jury Award at the 2004 Montreal World Film Festival, and the Best Feature Film trophy at the 2004 San Diego Film Festival.

Regional search

THE SEARCH for Ms Philippines Region V1 is ongoing. Application forms are available at Club Paraw, Boracay Island; call **Jocelyn Cordero** in Bacolod, 034-4332515; **Alfonso Bediones** in Iloilo City, 033-621-0042; **Amy de la Cruz** in Manila, 02-7583228. Deadline for submission of entry forms is April 15.

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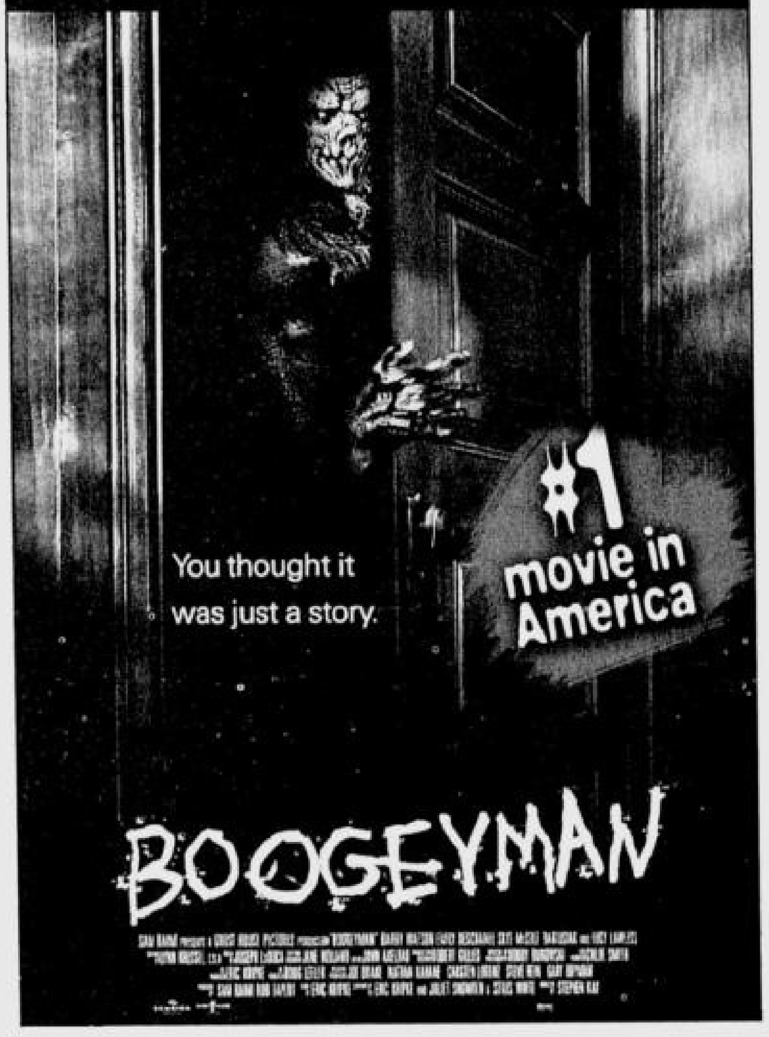
From SAM RAIMI - the director of SPIDERMAN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12:00 / 2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00
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1:20 / 3:55 / 6:30 / 9:05
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❷ THE PACIFIER
12:35 / 3:10 / 5:45 / 8:20
❸ BOOGEYMAN
11:35 / 1:55 / 4:15 / 6:35 / 8:55
❹ BE COOL
11:00 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
❺ SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
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KRIS Aquino

Kris' heart beats for 2 top cagers

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

SO MANY heartbeats and heartaches ago **Kris Aquino** sought solace from my mom. Like a little girl, Tetay would tell Ma about how this cager swept her off her feet and how this actor made her weep.

Everything about love seems to be magnified in Kristeta's world. Is it coincidence that she was born on Valentine's Day?

Some people are amused with her "true confessions," while others are appalled. Be that as it may, everybody is curious about Tetay's roller-coaster lovelife. We've all seen her go through the whole gamut of emotions on national TV. Even if we have drifted apart, I still wish her well. As her *kumare*, I hope the right guy finally comes and stays with her for good. I'm sure my mom is smiling from up above, seeing her favorite *anak-anakan* still in love with love after all these years.

Here's the latest on Kristeta's colorful love life, according to a certain Cupid who knows her heart inside out.

"There's a love triangle involving Kris, **Rommel Adducul** [of Ginebra] and **James Yap** [of Purefoods]. Previously it seemed like Rommel had the upper hand. He was spotted having early morning breakfasts with Tetay at McDo. Rommel also watched over Kris when she was confined at Makati Med a week ago. In spite of James being too young (23) for Kris, he is dead-set on snatching her away from Rommel." revealed my source.

He rambles on: "Things began to get weird between Rommel and Kris because he would bring up the issue about his aborted wedding plans. He says that Kris is the reason that he decided to back out from his wedding to **Donna Lina** (daughter of Custom's Secretary **Bert Lina** and owner of Fedex franchise). Plus, they have a religion issue. Rommel is a Born Again Christian while Kris, like her mom Cory, is a devout Catholic. A deeper issue is that Rommel's manager (**Ed Ponceja**) is intent on pairing him off with Kris. That's what Ed also did with Donna and Rommel earlier. When I spoke to Donna recently all she could say was, 'What else is new?'

"Last Wednesday when Purefoods and Ginebra had a PBA match, James showed Rommel how good a player he was. He was the top scorer for Purefoods and even duplicated his career high record. Prior to the game, Kris bet on Rommel's team but she also promised James that if he made more than 20 points she would buy him dinner and watch their next game (last Sunday). The question is ... Will Kris and James remain just friends? Where exactly is Rommel in Kris' life?" my mole gasped.

Oh well... it remains to be seen. The state of Kris' heart is always subject to change even without prior notice. Will wedding bells ring or will the buzzer sound that the game is over?

Guess who?

GUESS who this new TV idol is? Unknown to his fans, the teen sensation is already a father. His girlfriend (a

KRIS'/A27

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1 BE COOL 12:00, 2:45, 5:30 8:15, 10:50 PG-13
2 ROBOTS 10:50, 1:10, 3:35 PG-13
PRIMIERE NIGHT CLOSER 7PM
3 MS. CONGENIALITY 12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:00 PG-13
4 PACIFIER 12:40, 3:10, 5:40 8:10, 10:40 GP

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1	2	3
MISS CONGENIALITY 2 PG13 12:50,3:15,5:40,8:05,10:30	THE PACIFIER GP 11:00,1:40,6:00	ROBOTS GP 1:25,8:05
THE PACIFIER GP 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50	BOOGEYMAN PG13 1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:05	BE COOL PG13 12:15 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:15

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
3 Galing Galing Mo Babes
4 Shaolin Vs Evil Dead
5 Ms Congeniality 2

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.42.85
1 Alone in the Dark
2 Shaolin vs Evil Dead
3 Renovation
4 Renovation
5 Ms Congeniality 2
6 Pacifier

starmall LAS PIÑAS
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2 Rental Reservation

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GP

CINEMA 2 MS. CONGENIALITY
11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
P13

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APRIL 28 2005	'LOVE IN APRIL' - PILITA CORRALES	7:30PM

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'SAHARA' - Cussler's high adventure novel is now a big summer pic

What do you call a man...
Who has 19 consecutive New York Times fiction best sellers?
Who has sold more than 125 million books?

The only possible answer: **Clive Cussler**, who is internationally acknowledged as the Grand Master of the American action/adventure novel. Cussler's books are published in more than 40 languages in more than 100 countries with a readership of more than 120 million avid fans.

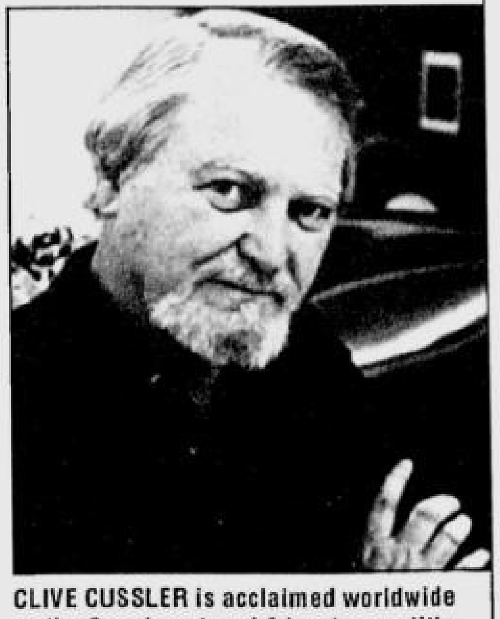
Cussler recently optioned all 14 of his novels featuring **Dirk Pitt®** to **Paramount Pictures/Crusader Entertainment** with script and casting approval,

Clive Cussler is an American adventure novelist. His most famous creation is marine engineer, government agent, and adventurer Dirk Pitt.

WRITING

Cussler' blend of high adventure and high technology, generally involving megalomaniacal villains, lost ships, and sunken treasure.

Like those of **Michael Crichton** are examples of techno-thrillers that do not use military plots and settings. Where Crichton strives for scrupulous realism, however, Cussler prefers fantastic spectacles and outlandish plot devices. The Pitt novels, in particular, have the anything-goes quality of the **James Bond** or **Indiana Jones** story.



CLIVE CUSSLER is acclaimed worldwide as the Grandmaster of Adventure, a title richly deserved given that there are nearly 100 million copies of his best-selling DIRK PITT® novels in print.

Cussler guards his characters well. It took a good number of years and negotiations to bring *Dirt Pitt* to the screen.

Still, Cussler had to resort to suing **Paramount Pictures/Crusader Entertainment**, because the writers changed key aspects of his characters, like allowing the girl to save the day, which he strictly forbade. Nothing can, nor should, take away from Pitt.

Filmed at a cost of over **$125M**, **SAHARA** is the first of the summer's mega budgeted popcorn flicks from Hollywood. •

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8:40 / 10:15 LPS / 10:40 LMF / 12:15 END
2. BE COOL
12:20 FS / 12:50 MF / 3:20 / 5:50 / 8:20
10:20 LFS / 10:50 LMF / 12:50 END
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sm megamall cinema 1
HITCH
12:00 FS / 12:20 MF / 2:40 / 5:00
7:20 / 9:20 LFS / 9:40 LMF / 11:40 END
☎ 633-1901

sm cebu cinema 1
THE FINAL CUT
12:00 MF / 1:54 / 3:48 / 6:42
7:36 / 9:10 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:05 END
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METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 HITCH
2 BOOGEYMAN
3 THE PACIFIER
4 MISS CONGENIALITY 2
5 BE COOL
6 ROBOTS
7 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
8 HOSTAGE
9 ALONE IN THE DARK
10 RESERVED
11 RESERVED
12 RESERVED

sm city fairview
1 ALONE IN THE DARK
2 CONSTANTINE
3 CURSED
4 HOSTAGE
5 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
7 THE PACIFIER
8 ROBOTS
9 CONFIDENCE
10 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
11 HITCH
12 MILLION DOLLAR BABY

sm city north edsa
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 BOOGEYMAN
4 HOSTAGE
5 ALONE IN THE DARK
6 MS CONGENIALITY 2
7 BE COOL
8 THE PACIFIER

sm city manila
1 MS CONGENIALITY 2
2 HITCH
3 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
4 THE PACIFIER
5 BE COOL
6 HOSTAGE
7 ALONE IN THE DARK
8 CONSTANTINE
9 ROBOTS
10 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
11 CURSED
12 BOOGEYMAN

sm city sta. mesa
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE smcinemaexclusive
5 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
6 ROBOTS
7 THE PACIFIER
8 BOOGEYMAN
9 BE COOL
10 ALONE IN THE DARK

sm city southmall
1 ALONE IN THE DARK
2 ROBOTS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 HOSTAGE
6 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
7 BE COOL
8 THE PACIFIER
9 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
10 BOOGEYMAN

sm city bicutan
1 THE PACIFIER
2 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
3 BOOGEYMAN
4 ALONE IN THE DARK

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 ALONE IN THE DARK
2 BOOGEYMAN
3 THE PACIFIER
4 MS. CONGENIALITY 2

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 HOSTAGE
2 CONFIDENCE
3 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
4 HITCH
5 ROBOTS
6 BAHAY NI LOLA 2

sm city baguio
1 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
2 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
3 INFECTION
4 ROBOTS

sm city batangas
1 ROBOTS
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 CURSED
4 BUNSHINSABA

sm city dasmariñas
1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 FINAL CUT
4 THE PACIFIER

sm city marilao
1 CURSED
2 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
3 BUNSHINSABA
4 ROBOTS

sm city bacoor
1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
2 ROBOTS
3 THE PACIFIER
4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
5 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
7 HOSTAGE
8 CURSED

sm city lucena
1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 HITCH
3 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
4 ROBOTS

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 THE FINAL CUT
2 ASSUALT ON PRECINCT 13
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 BUNSHINSABA
6 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
7 HOSTAGE
8 HITCH

sm city iloilo
1 HITCH
2 RESERVED
3 SON OF THE MASK 2
4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
5 THE AVIATOR
6 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
7 RESERVED
8 CURSED

sm city davao
1 ROBOTS
2 CUSED
3 SON OF THE MASK 2
4 BUNSHINSABA
5 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
6 HITCH

sm city cagayan de oro
1 HITCH
2 CURSED
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
4 SON OF THE MASK 2

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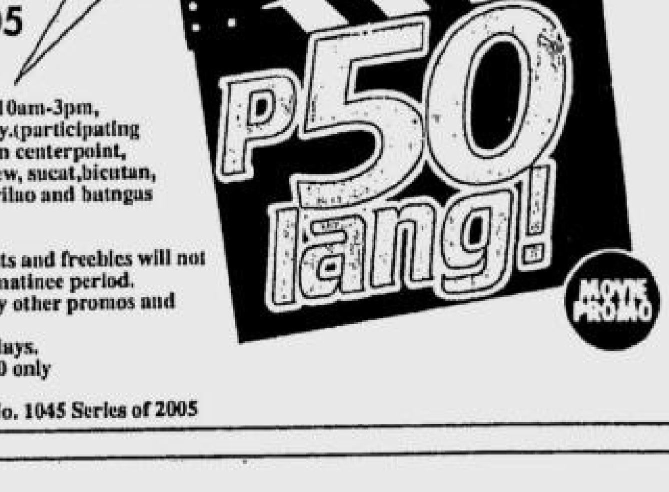
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GALLERIA
632-9115/16

1 HITCH • THX
12:00 2:35 5:10 7:45 10:00

2 BOOGEYMAN
10:55 1:10 3:25 5:40 7:55 10:00

3 BE COOL
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

4 ALONE IN THE DARK
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 PACIFIER
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 HOSTAGE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

8 ROBOTS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

9 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
1:40 4:35 7:30 10:00

10 CONSTANTINE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 PACIFIER
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

2 HOSTAGE
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

4 HITCH
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 ALONE IN THE DARK
10:55 1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:45

6 BOOGEYMAN
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 BE COOL
10:30 12 40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

1 ROBOTS
10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

2 HOSTAGE
10:30 1:10 3:50 6:30 9:10

3 CONSTANTINE
11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

4 HITCH
11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

5 PACIFIER
10:50 1:10 3:30 5:50 8:10 10:30

6 ALONE IN THE DARK
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30

7 BOOGEYMAN
10:45 1:05 3:25 5:45 8:05 10:25

8 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
11:50 2:30 5:10 7:50 10:30

NOVALICHES
935-3229/31

1 PACIFIER
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 6:45 8:30

2 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
12:00 2:45 5:30 8:25

3 ROBOTS
1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25

4 HOSTAGE
12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25

5 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25

6 ALONE IN THE DARK
11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25

7 RESERVE

8 RESERVE

PIONEER
687-5378

1 PACIFIER
2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 BOOGEYMAN
4 MS. CONGENIALITY 2

CITISQUARE MALABON
288-2575

1 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
2 HITCH
3 ROBOTS
4 MEET THE FOCKERS

CAINTA
240-4661

1 HOSTAGE
2 PACIFIER
3 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
4 CONSTANTINE

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1 HOSTAGE
2 NIGHT JOB
3 SEED OF CHUCKY
4 CONFIDENCE
5 ROBOTS

LIPA
(043) 757-3664
(043) 312-5870

1 ROBOTS
2 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 WITHOUT A PADDLE
4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
5 SON OF THE MASK 2

DASMARIÑAS
(046) 852-2125
(046) 416-4332

1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
2 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION
3 PACIFIER
4 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
5 THE FINAL CUT

ANGELES
(045) 892-2348

1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
2 HELLWOLF
3 THE FINAL CUT
4 HOSTAGE

IMUS
(046) 875-3838
(046) 471-8188

1 ROBOTS
2 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
3 HOSTAGE
4 PACIFIER
5 5 CHILDREN AND IT
6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2

STARMILLS
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(046) 961-6270

1 ROBOTS
2 NIGHT JOB
3 HOSTAGE
4 CONFIDENCE
5 CURSED
6 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD

BACOLOD
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(034) 441 0459

1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
2 HITCH
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
4 BUNSHINSABA
5 SON OF THE MASK 2
6 RAY

ILOILO
(033) 336-8070

1 CURSED
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
4 HITCH
5 RAY
6 SON OF THE MASK 2

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AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 BE COOL	2 BOOGEYMAN	THX MS. CONGENIALITY 2 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
		4 HOSTAGE	5 ROBOTS	6 THE PACIFIER	7 HITCH
G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 BOOGEYMAN	2 MS. CONGENIALITY 2		
		3 THE PACIFIER	4 BE COOL		
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX 1 THE PACIFIER	2 BE COOL	3 MS. CONGENIALITY 2	
		4 ROBOTS	5 BOOGEYMAN		
ACC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13	2 THE FINAL CUT	3 BUNSHINSABA	
		4 RAY	5 CLOSED		
GB1	GRENBELT 1	1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40			
		2 THE PACIFIER 10:55, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20			
GB3	GRENBELT 1	THX 1 MISS CONGENIALITY 2 1 35, 4 00, 6 25, 8 50, 11 15 GUARANTEED SEATS	THX 2 THE PACIFIER 1:30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 SPANGLISH 3 05, 5 35, 8 05, 10 35 GUARANTEED SEATS	
		4 BOOGEYMAN 1:30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 BE COOL 1:20, 3 50, 6 20, 8 50, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS		

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MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

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Per DTI NCR Permit # A1 259 Series of 2005

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From the writer / director of TERMS OF ENDEARMENT and BROADCAST NEWS and the director of AS GOOD AS IT GETS

MTRCB Rating: PG-13

ADAM SANDLER's Must-See Comedy Hit

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⑦ The Pacifier

EVENTS! EVENTS!

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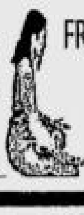

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Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324

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AUNOR and Rendez in 1999, filing libel charges against two tabloids. JOAN BONDOC

Aunor's arrest: the big picture

From page A28

firm of Edelberg & Espina to represent Ms. Aunor in her defense. The lawyers, Sherwin Edelberg and Claire Espina, who is a Filipino, we know will protect Nora's interests to ensure she meets with justice and fairness in this process. May we request that Ms. Aunor be accorded the presumption of innocence to which she is entitled at the present time."

The arrest was for alleged possession of methamphetamine.

According to the Daily Breeze of Torrance, near LA, the actress, whose real name is Nora Cabaltera Villamayor, was found with eight grams of the drug in her carry-on bag and a glass pipe wrapped in a T-shirt.

The newspaper named Aunor, but Jennifer Peppin, a spokeswoman for the Transportation Security Administration, would only identify the woman as a "female suspect."

Airport screeners stopped Aunor, who was flying to Oakland, and found the methamphetamine in a film container, the Daily Breeze said, quoting unnamed law enforcement officials.

Aunor, 51, was released early Thursday after posting $10,000 bail, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. A court hearing was scheduled April 21.

A Philippine citizen, Aunor now spends much of her time in the United States and has a home in Linda Vista, several miles north of San Diego. *With a report from AP*

Kris' . . .

From page A25

masscom student) gave birth to a baby boy last February. The girl did not enroll last semester because she wanted to hide her pregnancy. How long can they keep this a secret? Will it lessen the "market value" of the young star if he admits that he already has a baby? Why can't he do a **Jericho Rosales** or a **Diether Ocampo**? Or is he waiting to reach their stature before revealing his big secret?

Boracay chill

THERE was one event that stood out during the Holy Week in Boracay. It was not the typical deafening sound and alcohol-laden Boracay revelry but a more subdued and yet still well-attended party.

Complimenting the white sands and the legendary sunset of Boracay, smooth and relaxing music was played. The event was the "C2 Green Tea Boracay Chill Out Experience" at Club Paraw.

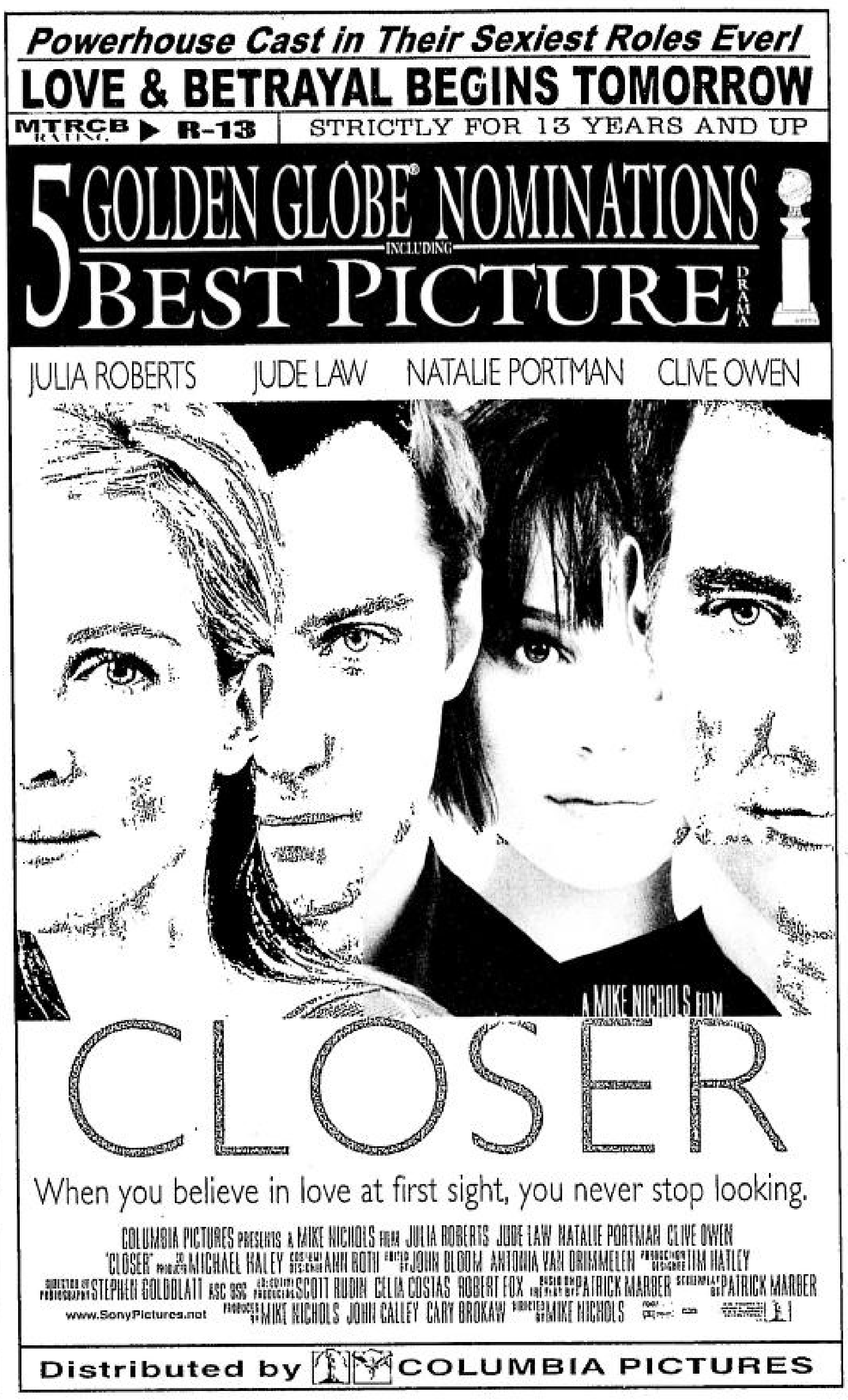
In observance of Holy Week, the event played chill-out music instead of the characteristic party sounds. Cold C2 Green Tea quenched the thirst of hundreds of sun worshippers as the chi-chi crowd listened to the soothing sounds played by the DJs.

Tattoo and massage booths were also set up for the crowd to enjoy as they chatted and sip iced green tea.

Last Friday's gathering was, to say the least, very successful. I wouldn't be surprised to see this lovely experience repeated next year to be enjoyed again by the beautiful people of Boracay.

Kudos to the beverage people of URC, particularly the C2 Green Tea team, and Scribbleworks, organizer of the event!

(For feedback, e-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com)



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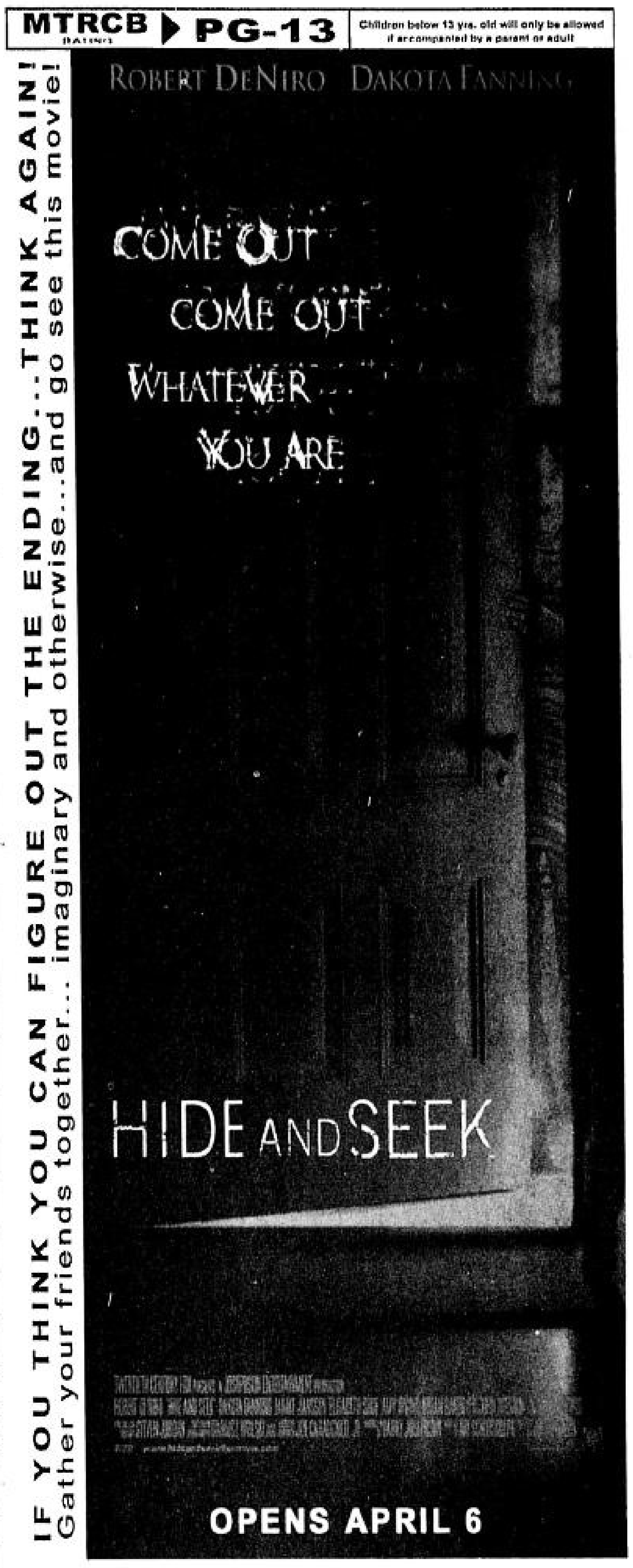

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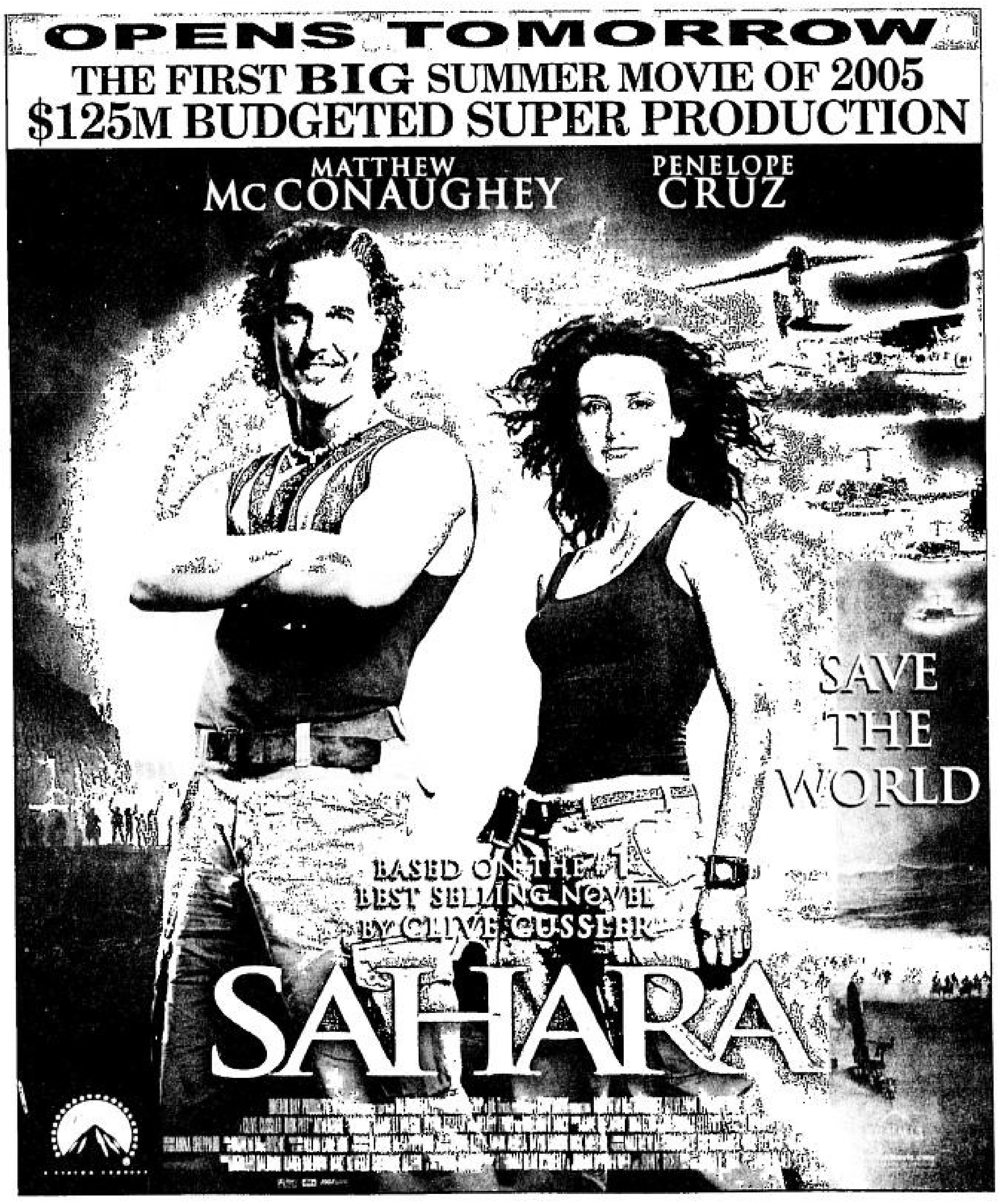

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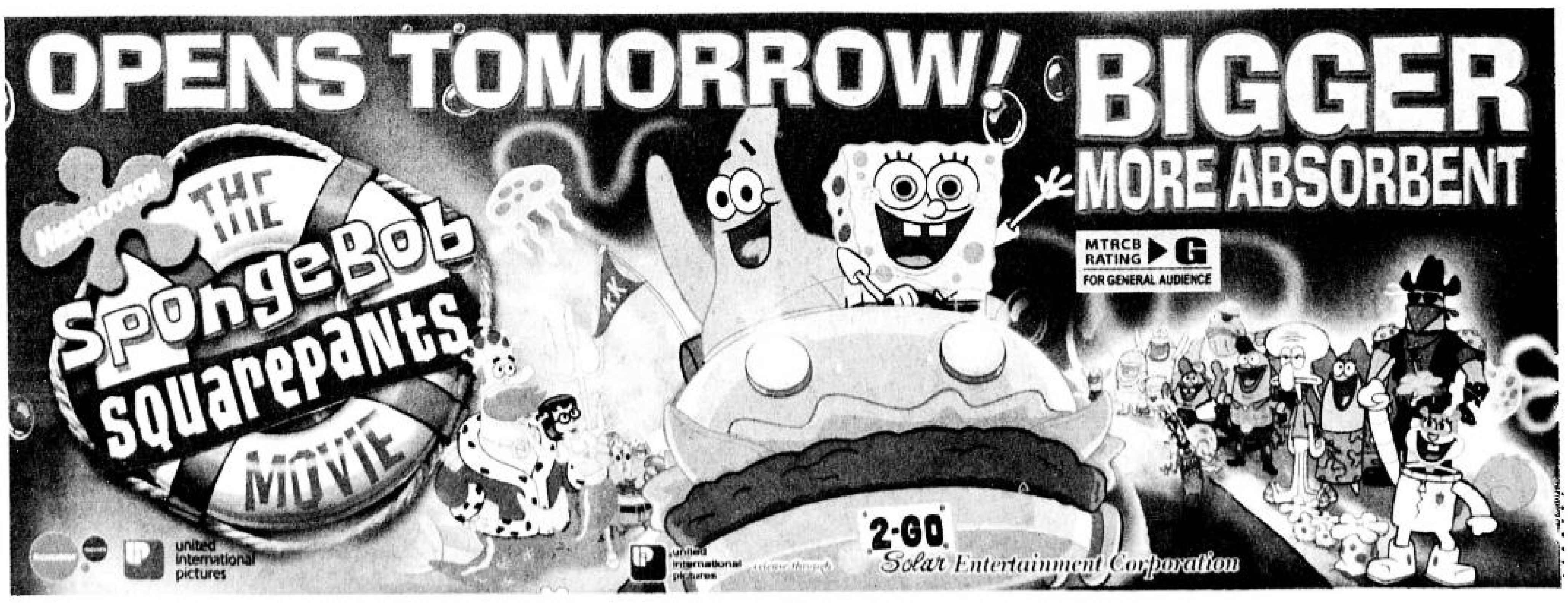

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Penelope Cruz falls for a camel

… and says co-star Matthew McConaughey is OK, too

"EASY on the eyes," is how the Texan describes the señorita.
PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLLYWOOD.COM

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—Don't look now but Tom Cruise's ex, Penelope Cruz, has again fallen for a co-star.

The new male in Penelope's life is, without a doubt, taller than Cruise. In a recent press conference, the beautiful Spanish actress denied that her *amor* smelled, or was mean and stupid. "I loved galloping [on his back]," she gushed, fiery brown eyes sparkling. "It's such an amazing feeling."

Penelope's latest flame is Moroccan—Moroccan camel, to be exact. They met while preparing for the action adventure movie, "Sahara," which she said she accepted "because the script reminded me a little bit of 'Indiana Jones.'"

Alluring in a brown, bosom-baring Dolce & Gabbana top and speaking in that charming accent, the actress related: "When I met my camel, I asked him, 'Who are you?' If you talk to camels, they [respond] with noises. We became very good friends (laughs). He never threw me off. I would say things, he would answer. People have it wrong about camels. Camels are not stupid. These camels [in the movie] followed their marks after a few times, after months of training. But they get a little lazy. After four takes you have to change camels. But they were sweet."

Playing a doctor investigating the source of a deadly epidemic in the West African desert (Morocco makes a nice location substitute), the Madrid-born actress had to learn how to ride camels. She admitted, "I was terrified about one camel scene, because we went very fast, like 40 kilometers per hour next to a train, and everything you see there is really us (the film's three stars—herself, Matthew McConaughey and Steve Zahn), except for the jump from the camel to the train. And it was two months of training just for that scene, which I think is the best scene in the movie.

MCCONAUGHEY, the new man in her life

"I thought they were crazy when they asked me to do it. I had nightmares. I didn't want to tell Breck (Eisner, director) that I was scared. One day I tried, and he said, 'Don't even think about it. I know you can do it.' I trained for two months. And then they had to stop me with the camel; I didn't want to get off! Now I can surprise all my friends. When they do all those tourist things, like walk on the beach, I can go away galloping."

She could gallop away with Matthew, actually, because she had also fallen in love with the actor.

Chaste kiss

When INQUIRER Entertainment asked Penelope why they have only one kissing scene and why is it so chaste, she laughed and replied: "There was another scene that we filmed that was also very romantic. But it didn't end up in the final cut because I think it is better that way. The movie has a romantic element, but it's more about the team, the three of us helping each other and going through all these adventures that end up to be related. I love that it is different that way for this genre. That is, the woman is there with them and it's a strong female character. She's smart, strong and she has a sense of humor. With the roles that I was offered before, I didn't feel that the female character was good enough or was there for a reason."

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Asked how it was working with the Matthew, who is "famous" for a 1999 incident (a cop, responding to a "loud music" complaint by the actor's neighbor, saw him dancing around naked and playing bongo drums at dawn) she obliged with, "I loved working with him. I didn't know him before, and he was a great *compañero* to work with."

But then she was asked direct questions about her relationship with the Texan actor. Was it love at first sight? When did it happen, exactly? Her famous privacy armor went up. "I used to get angry and defensive about questions like these," she said, "because I felt they had nothing to do with my work. Now I understand. If I were a journalist, I would also ask that question. But I cannot get into that or talk about something that is so private. Because once you open that door, it's very difficult to go back and say, 'Oh, today I don't feel like talking about my private life.' I don't do it to protect only myself. I do it to protect my family, to protect our relationship."

But eventually she offered: "We were friends for about five months." And later: "He's very open, with a great sense of humor."

In a separate interview, Matthew returned the compliment. "She's pretty easy on the eye—she freezes my eyes. She has a lot of respect for herself, her history, past, family. She has a lot of respect for who she is now and who she's going to be, and all those are connected with her and I respect that person."

Laughing, he next volunteered: "We have a different sort of dialogue that's very funny because sometimes she'll say things, and she'll say them wrong. For instance, 'I want to show you my most song I like.' I'm like, you want to show me the song? And she's like, isn't that how you say it and I go, yes. Actually, some people here would say, 'I want you to hear.' She wants to show me why she digs this song by letting me hear it. And I'm like, you said that better than we would in English. And then, I go off in my Spanish and luckily, she appreciates some of it and thinks some of it is very original."

Steve Zahn and Breck Eisner (eldest son of Disney top gun Michael Eisner), who's making his feature directorial debut, corroborated Penelope's claim that the romance began after the filming. "Honestly, there wasn't any romance on the set," Zahn stressed. "It all happened later. I learned about it from People Magazine. I really wasn't clued into it. I'm kind of a dork that way. The funny thing about being the director on a movie is that you see everything that happens on the set but you miss everything that's happening off set. But I did know they had incredible chemistry on screen."

Penelope, who has homes in LA and Madrid, was willing to answer a question on how she and Matthew maintained their romance despite hectic individual filming schedules that take them to different parts of the world. She explained: "I'm so used to traveling. You can find a way [to make a relationship work]. It's never an easy thing anyway, in any profession. Right now, I don't feel ready to have a family. I want to have children one day, but I don't feel this is the moment. Maybe in four, five years I would be ready."

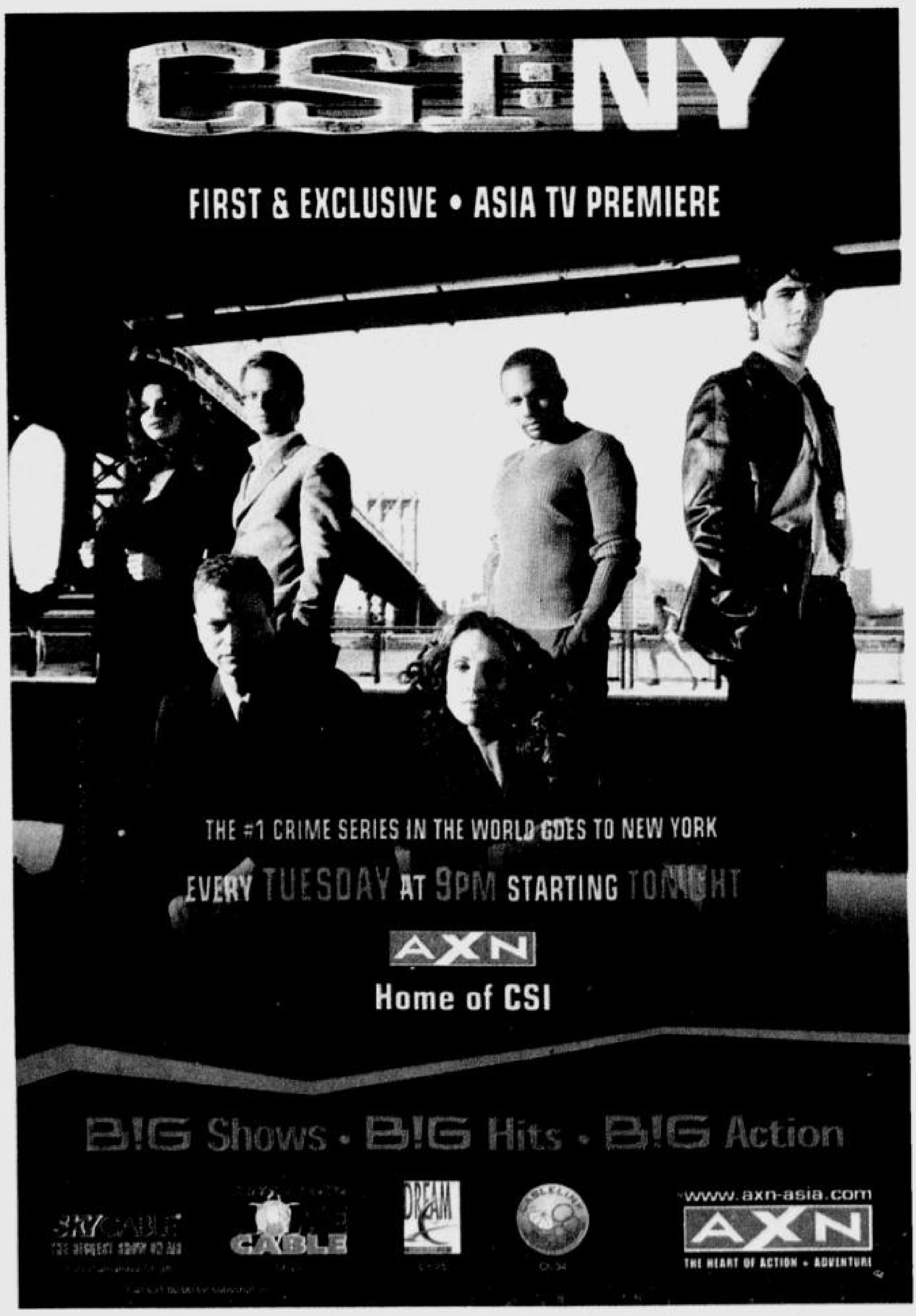
Parallel passion

Traveling to different locations has allowed Penelope to indulge in her other passion— taking photographs. But on this film, her prized shot is not of the Moroccan desert but of another sort of landscape. "On the set, the best picture is of Steve's butt crack . He loves showing that part of his body so I had to photograph it," she said.

Lucky Steve does not only get to be Penelope's favorite camera subject. In the western comedy "Banditas," which he and Penelope shot right after wrapping up "Sahara," he is the object of affection of two *muy bonitas senoritas.* "Salma (Hayek) and I kidnap him," Penelope said. "And Salma and I do a kissing contest with him."

Steve said he spent three days being filmed naked with Salma and Penelope, best friends in real life.

Up next for Penelope is a film that reunites her with noted Spanish director, Pedro Almodovar. Those brown Spanish eyes lit up at the prospect of filming in Madrid, where she had opened her own fashion boutique. "I'm going to spend the whole summer in Spain because I'm going to work with Pedro!" she exclaimed. "It is the perfect situation for me. In that place, with my family, and working with Pedro. I'm going to be in heaven."



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Aunor's arrest: the big picture

IS IT true that Nora Aunor married boyfriend John Rendez in the United States? Were they together when she was arrested at the Los Angeles International Airport on Wednesday?

These questions were on the lips of keen show biz observers all weekend. Others pointed out that Rendez could not be anywhere outside the Philippines, since he had a case on appeal before the Supreme Court.

How would all these affect the actress' rumored suit for a US citizenship?

This aspect of the big picture will have to wait. On Sunday, Aunor's manager, Norie Sayo, sent a carefully worded statement to media about the incident, parts of which follow:

"Ms. Nora Aunor was apprehended on suspicion of contraband possession on Wednesday, March 30, 2005 after which she was released for future court appearances. We have retained the services of the Los Angeles law

AUNOR'S/ A27

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Globe says price war unsustainable

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE Telecom Inc. yesterday said it was not inclined to extend its call- and text-all-you-can promotion for Touch Mobile subscribers after the 30-day period expires on April 7.

Globe president Gerardo Ablaza said the price war happening in the mobile phone industry was "unsustainable."

"We don't intend to make this a permanent offering. We are not inclined to continue with it once this expires. The promo was not intended for subscriber acquisition," Ablaza pointed out.

He said the joint venture of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom was unsure whether the buffet customers were those that Globe would like to have in its network.

Ablaza admitted that the buffet pricing "brought about a quality of performance similar to our competitor." Ablaza insisted that Globe was able to isolate its subscribers that were not qualified to join the call- and text-all-you-can promo.

"This kind of eat-all-you-can pricing is unsustainable if we are to commit to a minimum level of quality. The NTC (National Telecommunications Commission) should come to a resolution as to exactly what it expects from operators," Ablaza said during yesterday's stockholders' meeting of Globe.

The price war started by Sun Cellular left the two major players—Globe and Smart Communications Inc.—with no choice but to join in to protect their market share.

Smart and Pilipino Telephone Corp. ended 2004 with 19.2 million subscribers or about 60 percent of the market. Globe and Touch Mobile had 12.5 million customers by the end of last year.

Sun Cellular said it ended February with 1.7 million subscribers from only 700,000 in September prior to the launch of its 24/7 unlimited plan, which allows its customers to make unlimited calls and texts for P350 a month and P100 for 7 days.

The Gokongwei mobile brand is now offering buffet texting for P150 a month and P50 for seven days.

Touch Mobile started selling last March 8 its buffet voice and text for P300 a month and as low as P50 for unlimited text for five days. Smart launched on March 11 its 25/8, a deal offering a buffet serving of P115 for 10 days of unlimited call or P60 for six days of unlimited text.

Ablaza said the NTC must apply its regulations consistently and fairly. He said all players must adhere to the service standard set by the Commission, which required that 93 out of 100 calls must be connected on the first attempt and that no more than 5 out of 100 calls should be prematurely terminated or dropped by the network.

Ablaza said that when Globe was having problems with its network about five years ago, "the NTC threatened to stop (us) from selling" until the situation improved. Thus, Globe worked double time to improve its network.

Globe and Smart have asked the NTC to apply the stringent service standards on Sun Cellular.

Smart's head of legal Rogelio Quevedo, asked the Commission to resolve the issue against Sun Cellular's poor service following the Gokongwei firm's admission that its network had become congested.

Globe said that its own test showed that 35.4 out of 100 Sun Cellular calls during a 14-hour average failed to connect although on the drop call benchmark, 5.09 out of 100 calls were terminated by the Sun network.

91-day T-bill rate inches up to 6.595%

By Michelle V. Remo

BANKS tried to push interest rates higher yesterday, forcing an increase in the benchmark 91- and 182-day treasury bill rates, and prompting the Bureau of Treasury to reject all bids for the 364-day debt paper.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the Treasury was willing to let interest rates go higher, but only by up to 25 basis points, which was reflective of how treasury bill rates were moving in the secondary market.

"But the bids for the one-year T-bills are a little bit off, considering that there is no liquidity problem," Cruz said in a briefing after yesterday's regular auction.

Had the Treasury accepted the bids for the one-year bills, the rate would have increased by 44.3 basis points to 8.59 percent from only 8.147 percent three weeks ago. (One percentage point is equivalent to 100 basis points.) Yesterday was the second time bids for the 364-day T-bills were rejected by the Treasury.

The rate for the 91-day bills, used by banks as a benchmark in pricing their loans, rose by 5.6 basis points to 6.595 percent, while the 182-day yield rose by 24.1 basis points to 7.831 percent.

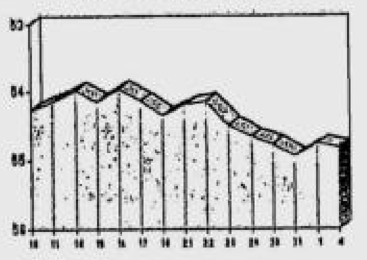
Cruz said the Treasury was

91-DAY/B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 54.815 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., April 4, 2005

¥ 107.90= $ 1

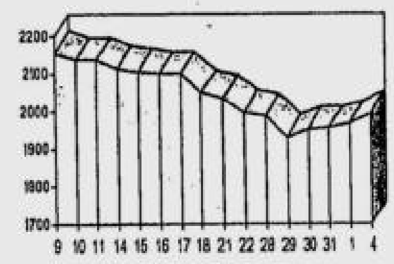
As of 5 p.m., April 4, 2005

GOLD: $428.30-428.80

per ounce Hong Kong, April 1, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks up 1.43% on bargain-hunting

SHARE prices closed 1.43 percent higher yesterday as investors picked up bargains for the fourth consecutive session, dealers said.

Amid light turnover, dealers suggested continuing caution amid record-high crude oil prices, rising inflation and the prospect of higher interest rates, dealers said.

The government is to release March inflation data today, and the central bank holds its monthly policy-setting meeting two days later.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 28.07 points to 1,994.36. It moved between 1,964.88 and 2,000.37 points.

Turnover reached 598.1 million shares worth P1.05 billion.

The broader all-shares index rose 4.11 points to 1,201.52.

Gainers led losers 54 to 29, with 40 stocks unchanged.

"The market is on a technical recovery after several days of declines. Investors may also be building positions slowly ahead of the first-quarter earnings reporting season," said Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities.

"But the market should be able to break through the 2,010 level to confirm the reversal of its direction." He noted that despite yesterday's extended gains, investors were still generally reluctant to take positions, as indicated by the light turnover.

"This is still a technical rebound," said Astro del Castillo, managing director at First Grade Holdings.

"The market is still waiting for the VAT (value-added tax) reform measure," Rodrigo said.

The Senate failed to pass VAT reform legislation during Congress's three-day special session that ended Friday.

Oil prices touched a new record high of $57.79 a barrel in Asian morning trade on worries over US refining capacity and the continued fallout from a study that projected prices could top $100 a barrel. *AFP, AP*

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Trust fun

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THIS is fun—thigh-slapping, foot-stomping fun.

Our story begins when a company called ATR Kim Eng Financial Corp. bought a pre-need company called The Professional Group, or TPG.

Once inside and in control of TPG, the listed ATR Kim Eng obtained "full power and authority, without the intervention of TPG," over the pre-need firm's billions in trust fund.

Again, that's the TRUST fund. In other words, it is the money of the clients of TPG, who must only be the poor public.

So there you have it—being in control of the pre-need business, the group of ATR Kim Eng could also easily give itself total power over the trust fund. Wow!

This whole thing sounds much like martial law: "By the power vested in me by me, I hereby declare myself the one and only dictator." Something like that!

* * *

BUT years later, word started to go around in the business community that the "TPG-ATR" trust fund had a little deficiency, amounting to only about P900 million.

Guess what? ATR Kim Eng, which had "full power and authority, without the intervention of TPG," over the trust fund found a bright solution to the money problem.

And that is, without much ado, ATR Kim Eng simply sold out TPG. The ATR Kim Eng directors in TPG resigned. Just like that! Wash all my troubles away, Lord!

As if they did not have enough fun already, there was more. You can never guess who saved ATR Kim Eng from all the trouble, by buying it out of a public trust fund deficient business.

Well, the supposed buyer of the TPG shares was the very same person who, only a few years ago, sold the very same TPG shares to ATR Kim Eng. You, Indian seller, you!

And it even gets more entertaining. According to an insider, no cash actually changed hands in the transaction, because the sale was done on credit.

When later, the fantastic buyer still could not come up with the money, the uncomplaining ATR Kim Eng gave him some more time of, oh, only another five years.

* * *

IF TO you, ladies and gentlemen of the public who bought plans from TPG, the doubtful sale looks like a transaction only on paper, I cannot blame you at all.

But what can you do? The publicly listed ATR Kim Eng, as owner of TPG, gave itself full power over your trust fund. And with the sale, it is out of your life for good.

Actually, I learned about ATR Kim Eng Financial's "full power and authority, without the intervention of TPG," over your trust fund, also from ATR Kim Eng itself.

The PSE-listed, Bangko Sentral-licensed trust-managing financial company ATR Kim Eng wrote this newspaper a letter to the editor. It came out last Feb. 24.

The company was reacting to previous items in this column—one on Feb. 12 and the other on Nov. 30 last year—about its use of the TPG trust fund.

I questioned why ATR Kim Eng, as manager of the TPG-ATR trust fund, did not bother to ask TPG's approval on a certain investment.

For instance, it bought a company, called GE Life Insurance, using the millions of cash in the TPG trust fund.

According to the investment plan approved by TPG, ATR Kim Eng should buy the company out of the proceeds from the sale of a real estate property in the fund.

Up to now, the TPG-ATR trust fund is still carrying the property.

* * *

FOR my information, based on the letter, ATR Kim Eng had "full power and authority, without the intervention of TPG," over the trust fund.

ATR Kim Eng did not bother to say in the letter how it got such kind of "full power and authority" over other people's money.

It is only now that we learned ATR Kim Eng simply took control of TPG and gave the immense power to itself.

So there you have it, ATR Kim Eng just admitted to the whole wide world that its "power" over the trust fund was total and absolute.

In short, it could do whatever it damn please with other people's money.

Now, I have a funny little question to the Bangko Sentral, which gave ATR Kim Eng the trust license.

Does any deficiency in the trust fund become an automatic liability of ATR Kim Eng, which has "full power and authority without the intervention of TPG?"

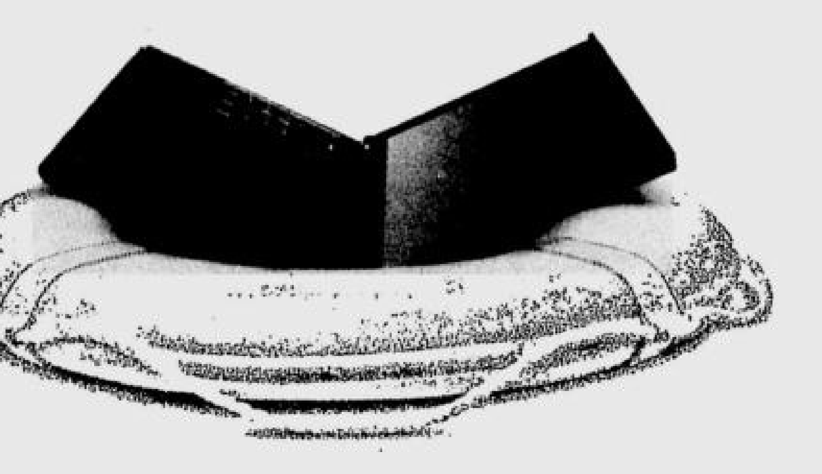
* * *

MIND you, this is a listed company, having gone public through a backdoor listing in 2003, about seven years after it obtained "full power and authority" over other

BREAKTIME/ B4

CURRENCIES

April 4, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.774533344	1.000000	54.9020
Japan	Yen	0.0072	0.009296	0.5104
United Kingdom	Pound	1.456897	1.881000	103.2707
Hongkong	Dollar	0.099312	0.128222	7.0396
Switzerland	Franc	0.643728	0.831117	45.6300
Canada	Dollar	0.637528	0.823113	45.1905
Singapore	Dollar	0.467178	0.603173	33.1154
Australia	Dollar	0.59607	0.769586	42.2518
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.054519	2.652590	145.6325
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.206537	0.266660	14.6402
Brunei	Dollar	0.465773	0.601359	33.0158
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000106	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.019744	0.025491	1.3995
UAE	Dirham	0.210884	0.272272	14.9483
Euro	Euro	1	1.291100	70.8840
ArgentinaPeso	0.265478	0.342759	18.8182	
Brazil	REAL	0.291266	0.376053	20.6461
Denmark	Kroner	0.134218	0.173289	9.5139
India	Rupee	0.017756	0.022925	1.2586
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.203852	0.263193	14.4498
Mexico	New Peso	0.069345	0.089531	4.9154
New Zealand	Dollar	0.548692	0.708416	38.8935
Norway	Kroner	0.121867	0.157342	8.6384
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013042	0.016838	0.9244
South Africa	Rand	0.124824	0.161160	8.8480
Korea	Won	0.000765	0.000988	0.0542
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024712	0.031906	1.7517



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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 4, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	26.5	27.5	26.5	27.5	200,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.5	52	50.5	51.5	2,049,000
China Banking Corp.	665	665	660	660	100
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.71	0.84	0.71	0.82	43,780,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	46.5	47.5	46.5	47	26,800
International Exch. Bank	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	40,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34.5	33.5	34	468,000
Philippine National Bank	32	33.5	32	33	109,300
Phil. Savings Bank	33	33	33	33	500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	2,700
Security Bank Corp.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	20,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	270	270	270	270	50
Manulife Financial Corp.	2550	2550	2550	2550	100
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	196,000
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	15.75	16	15.75	16	29,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.2	1.22	1.18	1.22	1,678,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	875	900	875	895	20,410
Ipeople Inc.	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.65	120,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.049	0.05	3,200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.02	2.04	2.02	2.04	9,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.4	2,223,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1420	1420	1405	1405	47,950
Ivantage Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	140,000
Philweb Corp.	0.021	0.021	0.019	0.021	38,900,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.75	18,900
Manila Electric Co. B	26.5	26.5	26	26.5	155,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	11,035,000
Petron Corp.	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.75	6,387,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.1	2.1	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	23,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.4	180,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	20,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	190,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	900,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.75	3.8	3.7	3.75	2,576,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	3.7	2.9	3.65	24,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	29	28.5	29	297,900
Pancake House Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	35,000
San Miguel Corp. A	55.5	57	55.5	57	162,500
San Miguel Corp. B	81.5	84.5	81.5	83.5	146,000
Universal Robina Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	753,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	500,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.7	7.8	7.6	7.7	2,131,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.53	0.54	0.52	0.54	1,560,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.55	4.75	4.5	4.75	277,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.12	2.22	2.12	2.22	2,943,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	3,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	200,000
Aries Prime Res. Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	14,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	15	15	15	15	2,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	11,779,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	200,000
CADP Group Corp.	1	1	1	1	65,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,200,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	140,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.45	3.55	3.45	3.5	1,460,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	6,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.6	237,000
F&J Princ.e Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	53.5	54	53.5	53.5	125,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.0925	0.095	310,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.58	1.7	1.58	1.7	139,000
Ionics Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	2,000
IPVG Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	6,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	40,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.44	1.38	1.4	1,689,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	500,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	7,350,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	420,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	830,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.57	0.61	0.57	0.61	210,000
SM Investments Corp.	231	240	231	238	1,866,150
South China Resources Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	340,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.185	0.175	0.185	3,830,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	1	1.1	1	1.1	110,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.81	0.81	200,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.13	900,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.4	2,270,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	230,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	257,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	1,500,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	15.5	16	15.5	16	270,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	6,700
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.5	8.8	8.4	8.7	5,589,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	1.02	0.92	1.02	560,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	400,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	1,810,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	80,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.49	5,290,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.56	1.58	1.54	1.56	3,093,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	120,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.85	5.1	4.85	5.1	2,283,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.76	1.76	147,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8.2	8	8.2	2,411,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	83,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.3	379,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	1,680,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	340,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	87,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	51,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.008	165,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.14	543,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.44	913,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	36.5	37.5	36.5	37.5	620,700
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	2,100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	15,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.195	0.205	0.195	0.205	1,660,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	40,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	46,903,250	168,099,085.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	120,686,110	1,066,428,371.27
PRO	21,913,000	88,720,060.00
Mining	390,775,700	32,708,240.00
OIL	18,800,000	457,650.00
GRAND TOTALS :	599,078,060	1,356,413,406.27

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	575.31	UP 6.03
Comm'l & Ind'l	3,127.06	UP 43.41
PRO	785.19	UP 10.22
Mining	3,216.67	UP 0.27
OIL	2.56	UP 0.02
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,201.52	UP 4.11
Composite	1,994.36	UP 28.07

NO. OF ADVANCES: 54; NO. OF DECLINES: 29; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 123; NO. OF TRADES: 3,085

DISCLOSURES

ARSENIO Liao is the new accountant of **F & J Prince Holdings Corp.**

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 8 with record date on May 13.

* * *

SM Prime Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 25, 3 p.m. at the Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La. Only stockholders of record as of March 28 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Company will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 27, 4 p.m. at the Metrobank Auditorium, Metrobank Plaza, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of March 16 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

SWIFT Foods Inc. announced the resignation of Catherine Muñoz as treasurer and the election of Lauro Ramos as her replacement.

* * *

LMG Chemicals Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 3, 2 p.m. at the 7/F boardroom of Chemphil Building, Arnaiz Ave., Makati City.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Marine Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 8 with record date on May 13.

* * *

CORAZON Malililin was appointed senior vice president for branch banking of **Banco de Oro Universal Bank**. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Sachs and the city

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

GOLDMAN Sachs shook the financial world by predicting that oil would spike at $105 in the next few years. There is no doubt that Opec has got us over a barrel but few analysts believe it. The oil price hit an all time high of $57.79 last Friday, but if you adjust for inflation and the depreciation of the dollar, the real price of oil is actually 30 percent lower than it was in 1979. The previous range of $22-$28 a barrel is a thing of the past and $50-$60 is more realistic.

This will lead to the government having to implement a series of measures to reduce the consumption of energy. Putting government employees on a 4-day week is only the beginning. A highly placed source on top of Mayon has informed me that the following events will take place shortly:

1. Malls and surrounding shopping centers will close from noon to 4 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays, and will shut entirely at weekends.

2. Churches will close on Sundays and the INC on Thursdays.

3. Air conditioners and television sets will be color-coded and only allowed to operate at night.

4. Gas stations will have an automatic device that will increase the price of petrol by 1 centavo every hour. This will replace the weekly 50-centavo increases.

5. All petroleum and diesel oil will contain 10-percent ethanol, or if this is not available, virgin coconut oil.

6. Buses and jeeps will only be allowed to roll downhill under the influence of gravity; on the level, or going uphill, passengers will have to get out and push.

7. Only vehicles with an odd number of wheels, excluding the spare, will be allowed in Edsa. So only tricycles will be permitted.

8. Incubators and ventilators will be switched off during peak hours.

9. Traffic lights will be abolished and jaywalkers shot.

10. All senators and congressmen will be moved to Ilocos Norte and their hot air will drive the existing windmills.

If the above scheme is implemented fully, imports of oil will be reduced by 90 percent. Workers will have to cycle to work as they do in Holland. As most Filipinos are overweight and out of shape, many will die of heart attacks thereby reducing the surplus population. Those who survive the blistering heat will become lean and healthy, and live to a ripe old age without medication.

* * *

Last Wednesday, when the Phisix recovered from down 40 points to plus 19, I sent out a BUY signal especially as there was a bullish

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PSBank
Peso TIME DEPOSIT

Deposit Amount (in pesos)	30 days	60 days	90 days	1 year
100,000 - 499,999	4.625	4.750	4.875	5.000
500,000 - 999,999	5.250	5.375	5.500	5.750
1.0MM - 4,999,999	5.500	5.750	5.875	6.000
5.0MM - 9,999,999	5.750	6.000	6.125	6.250
10 million and up	6.000	6.250	6.500	6.750

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91-day

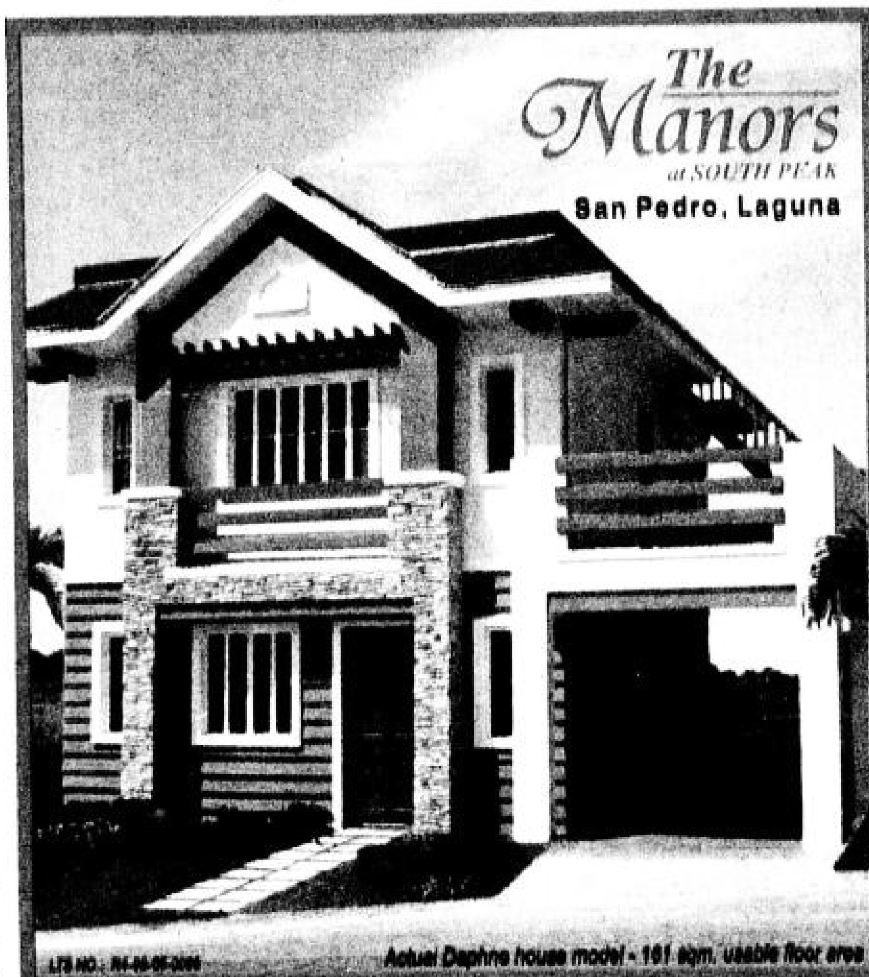
From page B1

willing to "respect" the movement of the rates in the secondary market, therefore allowing yields to go up within the threshold of 25 basis points.

Although banks were seeking higher rates, their appetite for the short-term government securities was still strong. Tenders for the 91-day bills reached P9.74 billion, while bids for the 182-day paper stood at P2.78 billion. The 364-day bills were also oversubscribed, as tenders reached P2.36 billion.

The government debt offering was only at P2 billion for each tenor.

Cruz said rates in the secondary market were moving up by about 25 basis points probably because banks were trying to match the recent 25-basis-point increase in the US Fed rate.



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MIAA to raise $300M to pay Naia 3 builders

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MANILA International Airport Authority is raising about $300 million in a 3-year syndicated loan from local and foreign banks to compensate the private consortium that built the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

Hermie Castillo, MIAA assistant general manager for finance and administration, said the agency had asked banks to submit underwriting offers for a 3-year-loan.

The operator of the Naia terminals has limited the term of the debt since it is planning to privatize Terminal 3 after three years, Castillo said.

Sources said the MIAA loan would be fully guaranteed by the finance department. Banks are given until Wednesday to submit their offers.

"The borrowing will be in a form of a 3-year syndicated loan," Castillo said in an interview. "Of the total, $200 million will be in dollars and $100 million in pesos."

The MIAA is scheduled to operate Terminal 3 in June. Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) and its German partner Fraport are pressing the government for compensation. Last December, the Arroyo administration took over control of Terminal 3.

The Transportation Department said it would help the Arroyo administration determine the appropriate amount to compensate the private consortium that built Terminal 3.

"The court will determine just compensation for Piatco," Mendoza said in an earlier interview. "The government takeover of Terminal 3 is legal, following a court order granting the DOTC (Department of Transportation and Communications) the right to possess said property in order to uphold public interest."

"We don't know what the court will decide but we want to be ready with the money," Castillo said.

Mendoza said the transport agency "recognizes the right of Piatco for just compensation and will do so after a competent court has determined its real value."

The MIAA generates about P5.4 billion in revenue yearly. But it has been unable to increase its fees despite the increasing level of expenditures.

Piatco is 60 percent owned by the Cheng family, 30 percent by Fraport; and 10 percent by Nisho Iwai Corp. of Japan. The company said it would have to pay $350 million to Takenaka International Corp., a Japan-based contractor tapped to build the facility.

The Arroyo administration had offered to pay Piatco $350 million so it could operate the Naia 3. But the consortium that finished the terminal in 2002 said the amount was not enough to cover its costs.

To recover its costs, Piatco filed an arbitration case before the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce and hearings have started in Singapore. Piatco was asking for a compensation of about $535 million.

Piatco's German partner Fraport AG filed a similar arbitration case with the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes. The German firm is seeking reimbursement of its $425-million investment in the Naia Terminal 3 project.

Public sector debt hit P4.6T in Sept. 2004

By Michelle V. Remo

THE OUTSTANDING debt of the non-financial public sector had grown to P4.593 trillion as of September 2004, as government units and state-owned firms continued to post deficits that forced them to keep on borrowing.

The non-financial public sector includes the national government, local government units, social security institutions and the 14 government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) being monitored by the Department of Finance (DOF).

Data from the DOF showed that the P4.6-trillion debt of the non-financial public sector was 5.6 percent higher than the P4.349 trillion recorded at the end of 2003.

The latest debt figure of the non-financial public sector was also equivalent to 94.8 percent of the country's gross domestic product, or better than the 101.1 percent recorded in end-2003.

The debt figure was computed using the DOF's newly adopted method of calculating public sector debt, as suggested by the International Monetary Fund.

The new method, which is also being applied in other countries, excludes from the computation all intra-government borrowings, such as borrowings by national government from state-owned companies, or vice versa.

The idea is that intra-government borrowings, although reported on paper, should not come across as a government debt, because the government also owns the money that is lent and borrowed.

Of the latest debt data, the national government accounted for P3.7 trillion. The national government's debt was 11.1 percent higher than the P3.4 trillion posted in end-2003.

The 14 monitored GOCCs accounted for P1.7 trillion of the total debt. The figure was 3.8 percent higher than the P1.6 trillion posted in 2003. The biggest debt contributor among the 14 GOCCs was the National Power Corp. Napocor's debt reached P1.4 trillion, accounting for 80.5 percent of the total debt figure.

The debts of the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System amounted to P43.8 billion. The figure was 31.7 percent higher than the P33.3 billion recorded in 2003.

Debts of local government units grew by 10.4 percent to P48.5 billion, while debts of the Central Bank Board of Liquidators (CB-BOL) decreased by 12.4 percent to P53 billion from P60.5 billion.

The DOF data also showed that of the P4.593-trillion debt of the non-financial public sector, domestic debt accounted for P1.5 trillion, while foreign ones had the bigger share at P3.1 trillion.

Breaktime

From page B2

people's money.

One of its stockholders is a holding company which has an impressive line-up of investors, including tycoons and Manila-based US citizens.

And who is that Kim Eng, anyway? Word in business is, ah, he is somebody important and well connected in Singapore.

It's a little wonder that the company got a trust license from Bangko Sentral in 1997, during the administration of Kuya Eddie.

But the big wonder is: Do those investors of ATR Kim Eng actually know how their company came to acquire "full power and authority" over other people's money through the brilliant move of taking control of the pre-need company? And do they know that when signs of trouble came—P900 million worth of trouble—it simply sold the same company, through another brilliant transaction only on paper?

And this is a PSE-listed, Bangko Sentral licensed company?

What are the authorities doing about it? We grew up believing that management of trust funds should go to third parties, i.e. banks.

Trust funds are not supposed to be managed by stockholders of the pre-need company, which raised the funds from the public, in the first place.

But I could be wrong.

* * *

ON ANOTHER issue on financing, it seems that some groups are campaigning hard against the home financing program of this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

The program is none other than the CMP, or the "community mortgaged program"—that 16-year-old financing for affordable shelter.

Administering the program ever since is the National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp., or the NHMFC.

The NHMFC, under its new management, headed by its president Celso de los Angeles, delivered some 14,000 housing units to poor families last year alone, worth close to P700 million.

But what is this? Only recently, the employees of NHMFC wrote Gloriaetta that some groups were out to sabotage the program.

As a matter of fact, those groups were convincing the public to stop paying for the mortgage under the CMP.

You know, much like the "civil disobedience" tactic employed by many "civil society" groups.

* * *

ANYWAY, from what I gathered, some real estate companies were pushing for the transfer of the management of the CMP from NHMFC to a company still to be organized.

I am not kidding. The proposed company is called Social Housing Finance Corp. As I said, it is still just a proposal.

Apparently to force the hand of this cute administration, the saboteurs of the program thought that they must destroy the program, by convincing the public to stop paying for the mortgages.

That way, CMP dies a natural death in the hands of NHMFC. Bright!

Never mind that the new improved proposal for a new company, even if it finally becomes a reality, only duplicates the function of NHMFC.

Well, that's what pressure from "civil society" can do. It can do some fixing on things that ain't even broke.

Bearbull

From page B3

candlestick at the bottom of a steep decline. Experience has shown that a hammer formation is the most reliable of all candlesticks and the Phisix has gone up since then. ALI has risen from P8 to P8.80 but last Friday, the index rose 11 points in much reduced turnover. This is not normal because a rising market should have increased volume. Foreign net selling continued through last week and the week before. On Friday net selling rose from P41 million to P95 million despite the lower turnover and yesterday, net selling was P82 million, again on low turnover. So I fear that the recent high 3 weeks ago may turn out to be the high for the time being.

As expected, the 3-day special session turned out to be a damp squib and has been abandoned. No decision will be made until after the bicameral debate on April 11. Until then, we live in hope of a bill that will raise at least P40 billion and the market is still suitable for short-term trading.

In the US, the number of jobs created was a disappointing 110,000 instead of the 200,000 that economists were expecting, but I have noticed that the figures are alternately good and bad so I was not surprised. The DOW plunged 100 points and the Nasdaq has fallen more than 8 percent this year. The dollar strengthened and foreign selling is likely to continue. With the economy growing at 4 percent there is a growing concern over inflation. The producer price index rose 0.8 percent in a month, and some of this has been passed on to the public. We know this because the consumer price index (excluding oil and food) rose by 0.3 percent, and spending increased by 0.5 percent.

So the FED will continue raising rates and this will make the dollar more attractive. However, with Japan, South Korea and Singapore all reporting slowing economies, this means that investing in Asian submerging markets runs the risk of losing money not only on Asian stocks and also on the currencies. Look at what happened to the peso. It dropped nearly 1 peso in a week.

I am coming to the conclusion that after the VAT bill is passed and the bicameral committee tries to finish the remaining 5 bills before the President's term ends, the stock market will be at the mercy of foreign investors. The jeepney drivers are demanding a 50-percent fare increase and, if granted partially, this could be the straw that broke the camel's back.

Workers received last year a miserable P20 increase that has been totally wiped out by inflation and a new much higher wage demand cannot be far away. If the government ignores it, there could be a national strike or worse; if they grant it, unemployment will increase still further because our minimum wage of $5.50 a day is far higher than in China, Vietnam, South Korea, and many other Asian countries. This is a Catch 22 dilemma for the President. Meanwhile, the number of people who live below the poverty level increases year by year.

If foreign brokers are selling US and Asian stocks, where is all the money going? Some is going into the dollar, but a large part is being invested in commodities, which have reached a 24-year high. Aluminum and copper are but 2 of the list of commodities standing at record levels. Investment in commodities has mushroomed and this does not leave mushroom for Asian equities.

In order to avoid the risk of further tsunamis, the Sri Lankan government has decided to move all of its seaside resorts 10 miles inland. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-024

RE: Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and cargoes and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

GOLDEN LINES, INCORPORATED
Applicant.
x---x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s, under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates

For Cargo Liner Operation:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service/s offered to be offered
LCT GOLDEN ASIA	Tabuelan, Cebu-Escalante, Negros Occidental & v.v.	Carriage of Cargo/Rolling cargo

Route/s to be served:
Tabuelan, Cebu-Escalante, Negros Occidental & vice versa
Sailing Frequency(cies)/Schedule

Departure			Arrival		
Port	Day	Time	Port	Day	Time
Tabuelan	Daily	9:00 PM	Danao, Escalante	Daily	11:30 PM
Danao, Escalante	Daily	12:30 AM	Tabuelan	Daily	2:30 AM
Tabuelan	Daily	4:00 AM	Danao, Escalante	Daily	6:30 AM
Danao, Escalante	Daily	8:00 AM	Tabuelan	Daily	10:30 AM
Tabuelan	Daily	11:00 AM	Danao, Escalante	Daily	1:30 PM
Danao, Escalante	Daily	4:00 PM	Tabuelan	Daily	6:30 PM

Cargo/Rolling Cargo Rates

LINKS		Type of Cargo	Unit of Measure	Rate/Unit
From	To			
Tabuelan, Cebu	Escalante, Negros Occ	Motorcycle	2 08 LM	175 00
		Motorcycle w/ side car	2 08 LM	260 00
		Bicycle	2 08 LM	100 00
		Bicycle w/ side car	2 08 LM	160 00
		Minica/Volkswagen/Bantam Car	3 16 LM	780 00
		Small roller	3 16 LM	990 00
		Forklift (less than 5 tonner)	3 35 LM	750 00
		Jeep (owner type)	3 63 LM	990 00
		Crane w/out boom	4 07 LM	3,500 00
		Mini Van (Fiera, Tamaraw)	4 16 LM	1,220 00
		Dodge, Toyota Corolla/Crown	4 17 LM	1,560 00
		Jeepney (PUJ/pax cap 8-14)	4 4 LM	1,560 00
		Isuzu KB, Nissan Patrol, Dodge Land Rover	4 48 LM	1,560 00
		Hi-Ace	4 63 LM	990 00
		Truck (4 wheeler)	4 69 LM	1,660 00
		Heavy Car - Mercedes Benz/Fort Cortina	4.7 LM	1,560 00
		Toyota Coaster	4 72 LM	1,560 00
		Pick-Up (Toyota Hi-Lux Datsun)	4 98 LM	990 00
		Big Road Roller	5 2 LM	2,500 00
		Small Bulldozer	5 3 LM	3,560 00
		Truck (6-wheeler prime mover)	5 63 LM	4,500 00
		Light Van (4 wheeler)	5.945 LM	1,900 00
		Payloader, Backhoe w/o canopy	6 36 LM	3,500 00
		Jeepney (PUJ/pax Cap 20)	6 49 LM	2,210 00
		Big Bulldozer	6 56 LM	3,500 00
		Grader (less 30% heavy equipment rate)	6 815 LM	3,500 00
		Truck (prime Mover-10 wheeler)	7 26 LM	2,760 00
		Grader (heavy Equipment on piggy back-on trailer)	7.85 LM	4,500 00
		Jeep-Mini Cruiser	8 LM	1,560 00
		Truck (10 wheeler-short chassis)	8 445 LM	2,210 00
		Dumptruck (10 wheeler)	8 69 LM	3,300 00
		Mini Bus	9 LM	1,660 00
		20 ft. containers	9 25 LM	1,760 00
		Crane w/ Boom	9 36 LM	2,760 00
		Dumptruck (12 wheeler)	9 47 LM	3,500 00
		Truck (6 wheeler-short)	10 445 LM	1,660 00
		Big Bus	11 LM	2,210 00
		Truck (6 wheeler)	11 895 LM	2,210 00
		Truck (6 wheeler - long)	11 975 LM	1,990 00
		Truck (12 wheeler)	11 96 LM	2,990 00
		Truck (10 wheeler long chassis)	11 99 LM	2,700 00

FOR TRAMP OPERATION:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service/s offered/to be offered
M/V Golden Bay	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on April 11, 2005 at 2:00 P.M. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor. 11th & 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), afterwhich the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, **VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR.**, this 29th day of March 2005 at Cebu City Philippines.

(Sgd.) **GLENN G. CABAÑEZ**
Regional Director

(PDI - April 5, 2005)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF UNSERVICEABLE ITEMS
"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING: **April 19 & 21, 2005, 2:00 PM, Solarium Hall, Building-1, Ground Floor NPC-Head Office, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C.**

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding for the sale of the following:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION	MIN. BID PRICE
	Schedule-I April 19, 2005	
-1-	One (1) Lot of Unserviceable items consisting of assorted scrap metals, plant/office equipment, junk motor vehicles and forklift, pipes, radiators, motors and cooling-tower parts, stators and obsolete drilling materials. All items are located at Mak-Ban GPP Complex, Bay Town, Laguna Province.	P3,563,000.00 Per lot
-2-	One (1) Lot of Unserviceable/used Wood Pallets, approximately 600 pieces. Located at Mak-Ban GPP Complex.	P9,000.00 Per lot
-3-	One (1) Lot of Unserviceable Chemicals consisting of Barite, approx. 4,114 bags. Located at Mak-Ban GPP Complex.	P185,130.00 Per lot
	Schedule-II April 19, 2005	
-1-	One (1) Lot of Used Lube Oil, net of water, approximately 150 drums (drums not included). Located at Mak-Ban GPP.	P400.00 Per drum
-2-	One (1) Lot of Unserviceable/Busted Batteries, approximately 213 pieces. Located at Mak-Ban GPP Complex.	P25,560.00 Per lot
-3-	One (1) Lot of Unserviceable/Busted Batteries, approx. 312 pieces. Located at Sucat TPP, Alabang, MuntingLupa City.	P31,200.00 Per lot
	Schedule-III April 21, 2005	
-1-	One (1) Lot Unserviceable/Junk Motor Vehicles and Substation Equipment including used tires, batteries and air-con units. Located at TRANSCO Carmen S/S in Cagayan De Oro City and at TRANSCO Natumulan S/S in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental Province.	P273,300.00 Per lot
-2-	One (1) Lot Unserviceable/Junk Motor Vehicles and Substation/Plant/Office Equipment including Transmission Line Hardware Steel Tower Parts and used empty steel drums. Located at TRANSCO Tayabas S/S in Tayabas Town, Quezon Province.	P234,240.00 Per lot
-3-	One (1) Lot Unserviceable/Junk Items consisting of Steel Tower Parts, guy wires, Transformer casings, steel reels, GI sheets, spacers, Reo Truck, Fork-lift, water tank, bolts and nuts, steel frames, suspension insulators, gantry crane, radiators and copper windings. Located at Ligao stockyard in Ligao City (Albay Province).	P220,000.00 Per lot

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/ CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL PRICE OFFER.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2004) ORIGINAL OR CERTIFIED XEROX COPY FOR THE BIDDER OR AN AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY.
3. APPROPRIATE AND VALID EMB-DENR ACCREDITATIONS FOR SCHEDULE-II ITEMS.

All interested parties who wish to secure the bid forms for this public bidding must present a valid Income Tax Return (2004 original or BIR certified copy) and valid identification card with picture (such as Company IDs, Passport, Driver's License, PRC Licensure Card, etc.). Interested parties for Schedule-II must present valid and original EMD-DENR accreditations.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from Mr. S.V. Lomuntad, Jr./Mr. Al Plata at MMD, Ground Floor, Bldg.-1, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone no. 924-5384. Deadline for issuance of the bid forms is until 4:30 PM, April 18, 2005 for Schedule-I & Schedule-II and April 20, 2005 for Schedule-III.

For the Materials Management Department

(Sgd.) **FELIX B. TACATA, JR.**
OIC, MMD

(PDI April 4, 5 & 6, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development – NCR
DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Tala, Caloocan City
Telefax: 962-82-09 / Tel. 962-98-87

March 28, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital invites responsible and duly accredited suppliers from DOH/CHD-NCR to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of the following items:

A. Foodstuffs	D. One Set Pressure Tank
B. Equipments	E. One Set Centrifugal or Booster Pump
C. Plumbing Materials	F. Wheel Chairs

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

Issuance of Bid Documents	April 11, 2005 (8:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.)
Pre-Bid Conference	Item A, B, C, D, E, & F April 11, 2005 (9:00 A.M.)
Submission & Opening of Bids :	Item A : April 21, 2005 (9:00 A.M.) Items B, C, D, E, & F: April 21, 2005 (1:00 P.M.)

Prospective bidders may secure bid proposal form from the BAC Secretariat, Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

All activities shall be held at the Training Room, Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, Tala, Caloocan City, unless announced otherwise.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bidder's bond in the form of a certified check, manager's check, or GSIS bond in an amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid. The Approved Budget Cost is stated on the bid documents.

For further inquiries, interested bidders may contact the BAC Secretary or call telephone no. 962-0884 or 962-9686

Dr. JNRMH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to notice of award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidders of the grounds for the hospital's action.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO SA. JAVILLONAR, MD, MHA.**
Chief of Sanitarium III

(PDI–March 31 & April 5, 2005)

High bank exposure in gov't securities worries IMF

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund has expressed concern over the huge exposure of Philippine banks in debt papers issued by the national government, warning that this may make the industry more vulnerable to interest rate increases.

In a recent country report under the post-monitoring program, the Fund said current macroeconomic uncertainties further stressed the need for adequate capital buffers.

"Both regular bank units and foreign currency deposit units (FCDUs) have large exposure in government securities. These exposures are long-term and fixed rate, which creates a potential vulnerability should rates rise," the IMF report said.

When interest rates go up, bond prices go down and when interest rates go down, bond prices go up. The biggest economic threat to bonds is rising interest rates.

A rise in inflation—which prompts an increase in interest rates—also erodes the purchasing power of bond interest payments.

Based on a stress testing exercise, the IMF staff calculated that an interest rate shock of 300 basis points could reduce the capital adequacy of a sample of 11 large Philippine banks, currently at 13.5 percent, by as much as 3 percentage points if all securities were marked to market.

"The (IMF) Staff encouraged the BSP to strengthen its monitoring of interest rate risks, which provide further need for banks to increase their capital," the report said.

"The authorities considered interest rate risks to be manageable at this juncture, but acknowledged the need for further enhancing data collection efforts in this area," it added.

The IMF also said deficiencies in accounting and loan classification practices in the Philippines resulted in overstatement of capital adequacy of certain banks.

Shell, Texaco given up to Apr. 7 to match bid for Malampaya

By Abigail L. Ho

SHELL Philippines Exploration BV (Spex) and Chevron Texaco Philippines have up to the end of this week to challenge the sale of almost half of Philippine National Oil Co. Exploration Corp.'s 10-percent stake in the Malampaya natural gas project.

When PNOC-EC disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange on March 23 that it would sell portion of its Malampaya stake to a consortium led by LG International Corp., it said the Spex and Chevron Texaco had 15 days to challenge the Korean group's offer.

Based on the disclosure date, the deadline falls on April 7.

PNOC-EC president Eduardo Manalac said neither of the two Malampaya consortium members had indicated interest in matching the Korean group's offer.

Spex and Chevron Texaco hold a 45-percent stake each in the Malampaya project.

Manalac said that should the two decide not to challenge the offer, the financial closing of the sale to the Korean group would be consummated.

The sale would fulfill PNOC-EC's obligation to the government under the guarantee that was given to it when it took out a $175-million loan to purchase the 10-percent stake in the Malampaya project.

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Ayala

NOTICE OF REGULAR ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the regular annual meeting of stockholders of **AYALA CORPORATION** will be held at the Grand Ballroom of the InterContinental Manila, Ayala Ave., Makati City, on **Thursday, 07 April 2005 at 2:30 P.M.** with the following

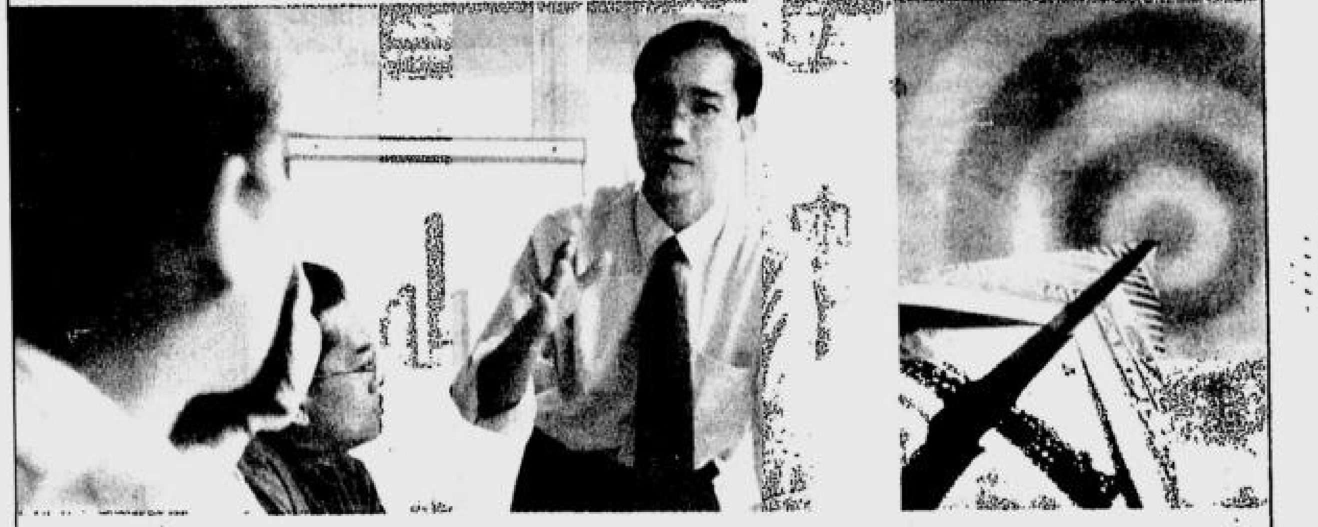
A G E N D A

1. Determination of Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Annual Report
4. New Business
    4.1 Ratification of all Acts and Resolutions of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee adopted during the preceding year in the ordinary course of business.
    4.2 Ratification of the Resolution of the Board of Directors adopted on 09 December 2004 on the Reverse Stock Split of the Common shares by changing the par value from P1.00/share to P50.00/share, and the amendment to the Article Seventh of the Amended Articles of Incorporation to reflect the same.
    4.3 Amendment to the Company's Stock Option Plan.
5. Election of Directors (including the Independent Director)
6. Election of Auditors and Fixing of their Remuneration
7. Consideration of such other business as may properly come before the meeting
8. Adjournment

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on **22 February 2005** are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, this meeting. As per By-laws, the Stock and Transfer Books of the Corporation will be closed from **22 February to 02 March 2005**, inclusive.

Makati City, 24 February 2005.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MERCEDITA S. NOLLEDO
Senior Managing Director
& Corporate Secretary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CONTENT
- The evolving Role of the CFO and the finance function: the Role of the CFO in governance
- Expectations of the Finance Committee of the Board
- Changing Paradigms for measuring the Financial Performance of a Firm
- Using Value-added Measures for evaluating Strategic Alternatives
- Mapping the Organization's Financial Future: Assessing the effect of the economy and other environmental factors
- Managing the Treasury Function: Matching Assets to Liabilities:
    - Liquidity
    - Currency
    - Duration
- Raising Capital:
    - The local and international debt markets
    - Non-traditional sources
- Managing Financial Investments: A survey of available investment instruments
    - Understanding portfolio measures
- Measuring Value: Advanced Methods
    - The Explicit Value of Debt
    - The Explicit Value of Flexibility
- The CFO: Partnering for long-term results: Developing systems and metrics
- Integrative Exercise
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Prof. Maya Herrera is the Program Director of the Strategic Finance Program. She teaches finance, risk management, corporate valuation, strategy and human resource management. She is a certified Actuary and holds a Master's degree in Actuarial Mathematics from the University of Michigan.

Prof. Grace Ugut, Ph.D. is the Associate Dean of the AIM Executive Education and Lifelong Learning Center. Her fields of expertise include the following areas in banking and finance: treasury management, risk management, corporate finance, and fixed income securities. She holds a doctorate degree in International Finance from Vienna University in Austria.
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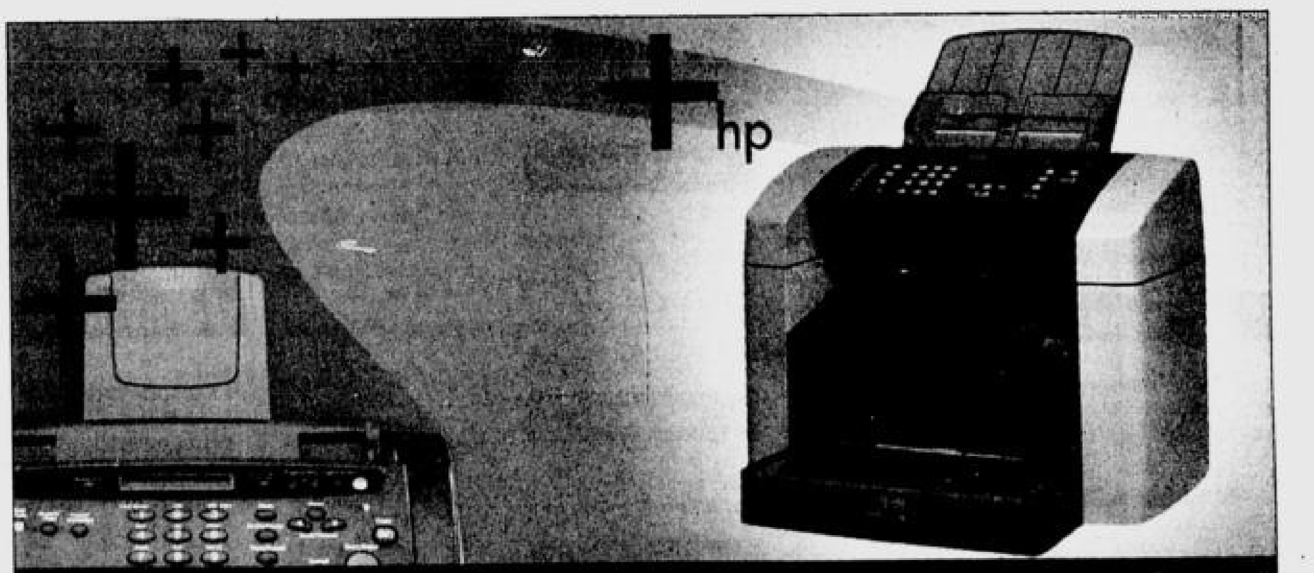
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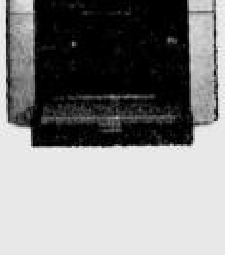
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REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

Consulting Services for the Training in Enhancing the Capacity of Government and CSOs in Assessing Development Programs' Impacts on Poverty Toward Effective Policy Making and Good Governance

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would like to invite local consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Training in Enhancing the Capacity of Government and CSOs in Assessing Development Programs' Impacts on Poverty Toward Effective Policy Making and Good Governance.

The National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) is the oversight agency of the government on anti-poverty programs and projects. Currently, NAPC is the lead agency in the preparation of the Plan of Action for Poverty Reduction (PAPR), which is the strategic operational plan to achieve the MTPDP 2004-2010 poverty reduction targets. Training on the impact assessment of development programs on poverty towards effective policy-making and governance shall equip mid-level managers of NAPC and CSOs the skills necessary in linking policies and their formulation towards effective development programs with poverty reduction objectives

This training course generally aims to enhance and mainstream the roles and capacities of NAPC and other government agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and local government units in conducting scientific assessment of the impacts of development programs and projects on poverty to support and promote effective policy formulation and good governance.

The project therefore requires the services of a consultant / consultancy firm with an experience in training courses for mid-level personnel from government, academic and non-government organizations that shall serve later as trainors on assessing impacts of development projects on poverty and in the dissemination of such information for effective policy making and good governance in the country.

Bidding Documents (Requirements for Eligibility, Instructions to Bidders, Terms of Reference and Standard Conditions of Contract) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Philippine Pesos Five Hundred (PhP 500.00)**, from the following address:

Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 901-0270 or 901-0273
Fax No. (632) 901-0200 or 889-7177

The abovementioned Bid Documents will be released to all interested parties strictly from **6 April 2005 to 13 April 2005 only.** The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates, other schedules such as pre-bid conference and opening of bid envelope, as well as further details on the scope of the services required.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP based on UNDP criteria. UNDP assumes no obligation or responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made for this Contract.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late VICENTE C. CRISOSTOMO was extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 73, Page No. 15, Book No. 457, Series of 2005 under Notary Public Lucila M. Lawas Yutok. (PDI-April 5, 12 & 19, 2005)

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Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Flordeliza de Leon Panaligan

September 4, 1911 - March 29, 2005

The Panaligan family would like to express profound gratitude for your spontaneous love, sympathy and support in our loss and moment of grief.

We find strength and are humbly grateful to you all in knowing that she touched so many lives and is survived by 9 children, 4 sisters, 32 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. She will continue living in our hearts and through the lives as we lead a testament to her legacy of love.

COL. CAROLITO S. CRUZ

Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 3, 2005.

His body lies in state at St. Ignatius Chapel, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on April 9, 2005, 8:00 a.m. at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

Dearly Remembered - Lovingly Missed

on her

THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY

SOCORRO MEDINO SIOZON

'Coring'

of Tacloban City
May 26, 1920 – April 5, 2002

Her loving husband, **JESUS, SR**; children **NOEL & VIOLA, SYLVIA & RICARDO (†) ABELLERA, RENE & ROWENA, ZENAIDA & VIRGILIO MORTERA, RUBEN & CAROL, BRENDA & ALFREDO BANZON, JESUS, JR. & TERESITA, ERIC & SUSAN, DANILO & PETRONA**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

So Dearly Loved...
So Fondly Remembered...
So Truly Missed...

In Memory of
a devoted husband, a loving father and grandfather,
a dedicated friend and an inspiring leader...

MARCELO S. BALATBAT

September 4, 1908 – April 5, 2000

on the

5th Anniversary

of his rebirth to Eternal Life

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Atty. Doris de Leon Almeda

Peacefully joined our Lord
on April 2, 2005 at the age of 82.

Her bereaved and loving husband, Alfredo; brothers and sisters **Luz Flores, Agnes Lantican, Hector de Leon Sr., Alice Cinco** and **Jose de Leon**; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law **Jovencio F. Cinco, Beth de Leon, Remedios de Leon** and **Lourdes de Leon; Enriqueta Almeda, Benjamin Almeda, Ernesto** and **Nitang Almeda**; nephews, nieces and grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Garden of Memories Memorial Chapels, Bagong Calzada, Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment will follow after the 2:00 p.m. Mass on Wednesday, April 6, 2005 at the Garden Memories.

"For
God
so loved
the world,
that He
gave His
only
begotten
Son, that
whoever
believes
in Him
shall not
perish but
have
everlasting
life."

John 3:16

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Beloved Papa

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Peacefully joined our Lord
on April 2, 2005 at the age of 64.

His wife **Pacita** and children **Jerome, Caren** and **Tina**; brothers and sisters **Helen (†), Ben (†), William (†), Wenzel (†), Judith (†), Elizabeth (†), Sr. Geraldine (†), James (†), Paddy** and **Myrna**; in-laws and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapels 1 and 2, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, April 6, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the same chapel.

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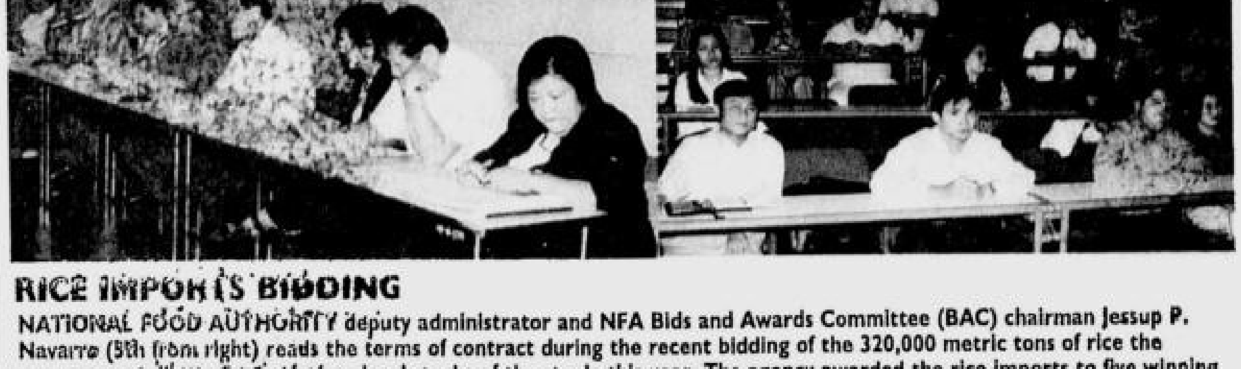


RICE IMPORTS BIDDING

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY deputy administrator and NFA Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) chairman Jessup P. Navarro (5th from right) reads the terms of contract during the recent bidding of the 320,000 metric tons of rice the government will import to beef-up local stocks of the staple this year. The agency awarded the rice imports to five winning bidders from Vietnam who bidded at the price of $281.98 per MT. As of press time, arrivals of the rice have already reached 210,000 MT. The remaining rice imports are expected to arrive not later than April 15. With Navarro are NFA assistant administrator for operations and stabilization and BAC member Conrado DL. Ibañez (4th from left), NFA assistant administrator for industry development and BAC vice-chairman Ludovico A. Jarina (6th from left) and other members of the committee. A representative from the Commission on Audit (COA) and some members of the media observed the bidding proceedings. At right are the bidders who participated in the bidding.

INVITATION TO BID ON A "BEST OFFER" BASIS

The Owners of real property with a total area of 6,772 square meters located on Tomas Mapua Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila (present site of the Mapua High School), invite interested buyers to bid for the purchase of said property.

Information on the property, bidding rules and documents can be secured by interested buyers upon payment of a non refundable deposit of P100.00 from the person designated below

Conditions:
1. Sale shall be on an "as is where is" basis.
2. All bidders must comply with the bidding rules.
3. Sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Owners

THE OWNERS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS THEY MAY CONSIDER AS THE MOST ADVANTAGEOUS.

Deadline for submission and opening of bids shall be on 31 May 2005. The owners, however, reserve the right to change the date of submission to a later date.

For particulars, please contact:

Atty. Manuel R. Roxas
19th Floor, BDO Plaza
8737 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City
Te. No.: 840-3783

(PDI--March 28 & April 5, 2005)

BUSINESS

NFA sees higher rice importation

By Christine A. Gaylican

DUE to poor harvests in the last quarter of 2004 and the first quarter of this year, the National Food Authority said it would import another 300,000 metric tons of rice this month to maintain a 30-day buffer stock.

This will bring the country's total rice importation so far to 1.2 million metric tons. About 900,000 metric tons of rice were imported In the first two months of the year.

"We have calibrated our moves based on the present market situation. The December typhoons badly damaged the main harvests so we are tapping the allowed volume of importation to preserve the country's buffer stock," NFA Administrator Gregorio Tan Jr. said in an interview.

The NFA stock forms part of a 90-day national buffer stock which should be maintained at abut 3.6 million metric tons, based on the average daily consumption of 29,000 metric tons. The national buffer stock also includes commercial and household rice inventories.

The inter-agency committee on grains—composed of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Finance and the Department of Trade and industry—had allowed NFA to import up to 1.6 million metric tons of rice this year.

Tan said he was hoping the second quarter harvest would be higher to eliminate the need for further importation.

Source said if the second quarter harvest would not improve, the country's rice importation might this year might hit the limit of 1.6 million metric tons, which would be the highest since 1997 when importation reached 2 million metric tons due to severe drought.

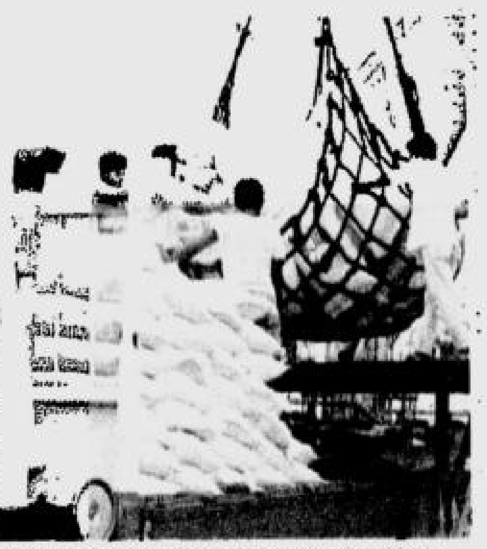
"If the NFA would see that there would be insufficient stocks held by the commercial sector and the households, we would have to intervene and import more," Tan said.

In January and February, the country imported about 900,000 metric tons of rice from Vietnam and Thailand.

"We are awaiting the April survey to be conducted by the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics to see if we would need to import more," he added.

Tan admitted that the country's rice importation was now higher than the earlier estimate of 700,000 to 900,000 MT.

Last year's total rice imports reached only 995,000 metric tons.



IMPORTS from Vietnam and Thailand help NFA maintain its buffer stock.

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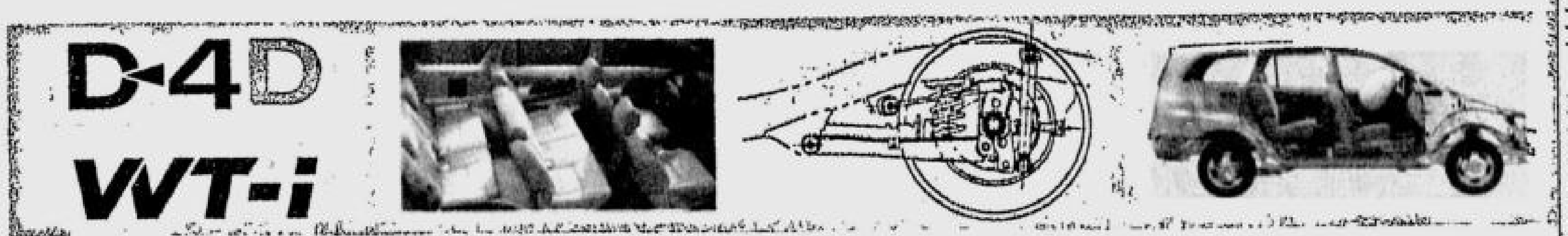

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

NOT-SO-FAST fast food /C4

WINDSURFING in Boracay. Local enthusiasts of the international sport win honors for the Philippines.

Pinoy windsurfers shine in Boracay Cup

FILIPINO windsurfers brought honor to their country by winning several prizes in the international windsurfing competition held recently in Boracay.

The Filipino windsurfers won in three out of six categories during the 17th Boracay Funboard Cup, part of the grand Asian Windsurfing Tour.

Nenette Graf and Fely Meyer of Boracay won third places in the Ladies Class. Rey Benjamin (Lance) Joson of Manila and Gido Gelito of Boracay won first and second place, respectively, in the Junior Class (16 years old and below).

German Paz, Geylord Coveta and Bingo Moreno, all from Anilao, Batangas, swept the top three places in the Men Class (17-29 years old).

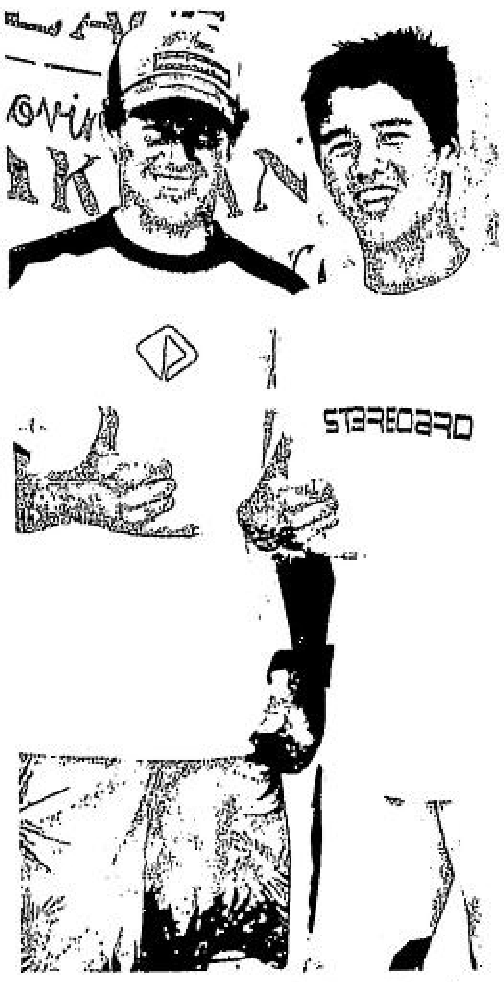
The event drew 69 participants from different Pacific Rim countries and territories. The Asian Windsurfing Tour is held annually in five different Asian countries.

First placer in the Junior Master Class (30-39 years old) was Keichi Kobayashi of Guam. The winner of the Master Class (40 years old and above) was Sung Soo Yoon of Korea. The Open Class was won by Gonzalo Costa-Hoevel of Argentina. Runner-up was Dans Ellis of Great Britain.

The Boracay Funboard Cup was started in 1988 by Roby and Nenette Graf. Filipino windsurfers won the Silver Boracay Cup (Grand Master Class) only once, in 1997. Winner was Vice Fajermo of Anilao, Batangas. Last year, only Paz and Joson, both of the Anilao windsurfing group, won honors for the Philippines in the Men and Junior Classes, respectively.

Paz, now 28 years old, has been windsurfing since the age of 12. He was a silver medalist in the Southeast Asian Windsurfing Tournament in Thailand in 1995 and a consistent winner in the Boracay Funboard Cup since 1996.

Joson is a third year high school student at Ateneo de Manila University. Last year, the first time he joined the international competition, he was second in the Junior Class. He will be joining the 2005 Asian Windsurfing Tournament in Korea in May and the Southeast Asian Windsurfing Tournament in November here in the Philippines.



LANCE Joson and Gonzalo Costa-Hoevel of Argentina

THE ANILAO Windsurfing team

BORACAY Funboard Cup organizer Nenette Graf and presidential daughter Luli Arroyo (third from left) with Funboard competitors from Poland

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PLDT

New Philippine show jumping record set

ASIAN Games gold-medallist Mikaela "Mikee" Cojuangco Jaworski and Joker Arroyo, daughter of Sen. Joker Arroyo, set a new Philippine height record at the recent Kamiseta Cup 2005 Show Jumping Championship held at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City.

The previous height record was set in 1979 by Steven Virata.

Champion and international veteran rider Vic Barba edged out runner-up and Australian Youth Olympic rider Mikeli O'Leary in the 1.25 m class. Diego Lorenzo beat Australian Youth Olympic rider Danni Virata in the 1.15 m class.

In the 1.05 m class, Mateo Lorenzo bested his own brother, Diego. Nathalie Zani beat Mateo Lorenzo in the 0.90 m class. The veteran team of Steven Virata and Ana Sison outshone the younger tandem of Danni Virata and Chelsea Co in the team event.

The competition, now on its second year, was hosted by Tim Yap and Tessa Prieto-Valdes. Guests included Borgy Manotoc, together with model Ornusa Cadness, Jenni Epperson and Xeng Zulueta. Also present was the MTV group of KC Montero, Marc Abaya and Reema Chanco. Other guests were Vic Barba, Apa Ongpin and Sen. Arroyo.

The event ended with the awarding of prizes by Kamiseta and Manila Polo Club directors, followed by cocktails, with music provided by DJ Manolet Dario.

MIKEE Cojuangco-Jaworski

SEN. JOKER Arroyo, wife Fely and daughter Joker, who set a new Philippine record, with Cris and Gunn Roque

STEVEN Virata and Anna Sison

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THE WINNERS Circle

Asian cruise for winners of Celebrity Open

VINCE Hizon with wife Shaan and Anthony Suntay with wife Tet

ALVIN Aragon, Geoff Eigenmann, Chris Martinez, Denise Laurel, AJ and Ryan Eigenmann won the grand prize

SIX CELEBRITIES are going on an Asian cruise after being named Best Timezone Team during the second Celebrity Open that marked Timezone's 7th anniversary in the Philippines.

The Orange Team led by the Eigenmann brothers, Ryan, AJ and Geoff; with Denise Laurel, Chris Martinez and Alvin Aragon defeated more than 30 other show-biz personalities.

The winning team, aside from the trip to Singapore inclusive of a four-day, three-night cruise courtesy of Superstar Virgo, also gets a one-year supply of Powercard worth P1,000 per month. It also received gift certificates from Perk Body Care Spa and exclusive use of Ayala Cinema's premiere theater, MyCinema, as well as Glorietta 4 Cinema movie passes.

The Orange team had an overall score of 66 points.

Next was the Violet team composed of Vince Hizon and wife, Shaan, Anthony Suntay and wife Tet, Rob Johnson of the Alaska Aces and Anjo Yllana. Each member won a Philips DVD player, P5,000 worth of Powercards, P1,000 EGC from Ayala Mall and other consolation prizes.

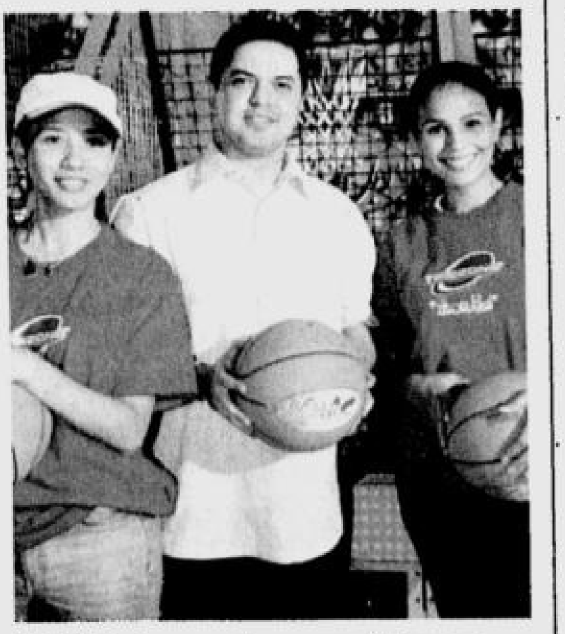
The event was hosted by Gelli Victor of RX 93.1, and was formally opened by Timezone general manager Raffy Prats who competed with Iza Calzado and Karylle on the Slam 'n' Jam Basketball Challenge. Guests included Joey Mead, Marc Nelson, Anne Curtis, Danilo Barrios, Dion Ignacio and Jerome John Hughes. Timezone officials Mark Sablan, business development and marketing manager, and Ronald Lucas, operations manager, were present for the event.

Timezone branches are at Glorietta 4, Glorietta 2, Greenbelt 3, Greenbelt 1, Alabang Town Center Main, Alabang Town Center Cinemas, SM Megamall, Greenhills, Market!Market!, Starmall, Metropoint, Pavilion Mall, Robinsons Place Lipa, NCCC Mall Davao, Ayala Center Cebu Main and Ayala Center Cebu Cinemas.

Soon to open are Timezone branches at Araneta Gateway (Cubao), Greenhills Promenade, Marquinton Mall (Marikina) and NCCC Tagum (Davao).

ISLAND COVE
Gift Certificate

TIMEZONE'S Mark Sablan, business development and marketing manager; and Raffy Prats, general manager; Vince Hizon and host Gelli Victor



RAFFY Prats, general manager of Timezone, with Karylle and Iza Calzado

COACH-E coaches and training staff, headed by Xavier Nunag (kneeling, second from right), Eric Altamirano (standing, fourth from left) and Ronnie Magsanoc (standing, right)

Basketball school starts classes

THE INTERNATIONAL Basketball Academy (IBA) presents Coach-E Basketball School, the newest and most unique basketball school in town.

The class for new students started yesterday while the class for old students begins 1-3:30 p.m. today. All sessions are held at Club 650, Libis, Quezon City, beside Shopwise, Libis.

The program was initiated by former national and Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) coach Eric Altamirano, who personally developed the basketball modules. The basketball school aims to train the next generation of Filipino basketball players using a scientific and values-based approach.

Coach-E has the smallest coach-to-student ratio—one coach to just four students.

It has three modules and a year-long curriculum.

IBA president and former standout of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines Xavier Nunag said Coach-E focused on each student so that he/she got the proper personalized training and personal developments.

He said the school did not just teach skills but also the values of discipline, determination, honesty, humility, loyalty, learning, competence and integrity.

Coach-E modules are conducted and supervised by top-ranked basketball players, coaches and sport psychologists, like former star player Ronnie Magsanoc.

Coach-E students get to play in an annual four-leg National Youth Basketball League, competing with teams from different schools and villages in two age groups: Division A (13 and below) and Division B (16 and below).

They also participate in the Annual Summer LEAD Camp, a weekend of learning the values of leadership, excellence, attitude and discipline. They are joined in the camp by their parents, coaches and guest PBA speakers.

A Varsity Elite course is designed for members of high school varsity teams or their training teams who want to take their game to the next level through more intensive drills and coaching from professionals.

IBA has also launched the first and only comprehensive school for referees, SOAR (School for Officiating and Advanced Refereeing), which has been developed and will be supervised by former National Basketball Association referee and PBA consultant Jesse Thompson. Classes began April 2, with only a limited number of students.

IBA is also launching the Academy for Coaching Excellence to hone the skills of basketball mentors.

Call 6311195 or e-mail iba_phil@yahoo.com

Celebrities' fitness club

WHAT do Francine Prieto, Diana Zubiri, Christian Vasquez and Yul Servo have in common?

They are among the stars who work out at Body Worx Spa and Fitness Club.

Candidates for Miss Earth 2004 also had a workout session at Body Worx.

The Body Worx Spa and Fitness Club located on the fourth and fifth floors of Hollywood Square Building, West Avenue, Quezon City, provides optimum service to ensure the overall health, fitness, safety and satisfaction of members and guests.

It has a spa and different exercise areas. Fitness equipment include Stretch Trainers, EFX Crosstrainers, Concept 11 Rowers, Upright and Recumbent Bikes, and Treadmills. Also available are the new Cybex Free Weights, Stack Machines and Roman chairs. The club has a boxing ring.

Body Worx Spa and Fitness Club also has three group exercise studios. Classes offered include Indoor Cycling, CardioCombat, Yoga and Pilates, Taichi, Stability Ball exercises, Striptease Aero, Body Conditioning, Punch Bag Aero and Brazilian Capoeira.

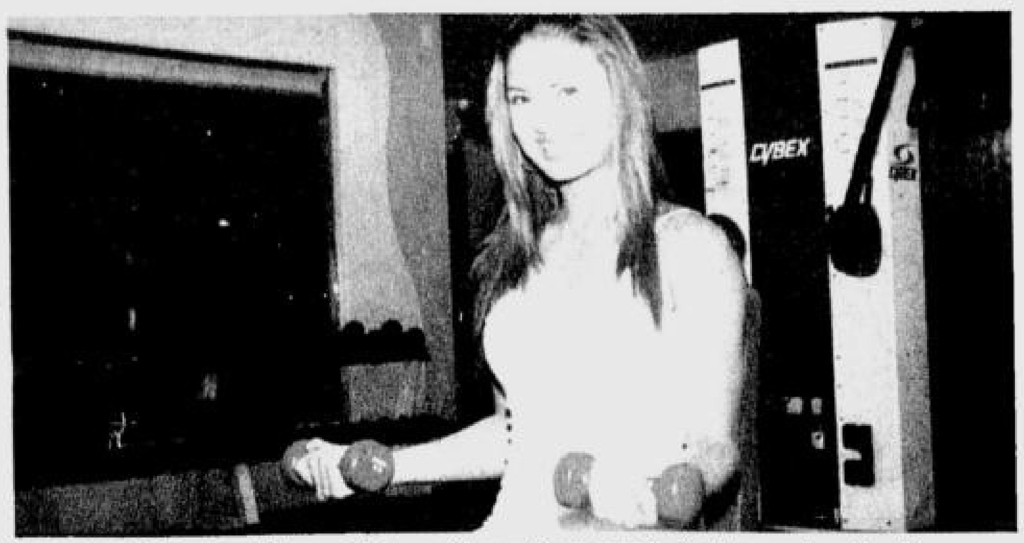
Occasionally, a Muay Thai (Thai kickboxing) class is held in one of the studios.

Body Worx also offers Endurance Training, Fat Loss Program, Muscle Mass Gain Program, Body Sculpting/Toning Program, Sports Specific Training Program and Children's Fitness Program.

The Body Worx Spa offers Wooden Tub Herbal Dip, Oxygen Bar, Individual Capsule Saunas, Far Infrared Therapy spa services.

The gym has a snack bar that offers a healthy menu of natural fruit juices and gourmet sandwiches made from organic ingredients.

Call 410386, 3729800, 3732800.



BODY WORX Spa and Fitness Club provides optimum service for its members' health, fitness, safety and satisfaction.

ASP auditor Alberto Gabriel, ASP president Carlos Calica, ASP board member Isabel Melgar, former Philippine president Fidel V. Ramos, ASP vice president Mari Rose delos Reyes, ASP secretary Irene Fonacier-Fellizar, ASP treasurer Rosanna Ditangco and ASP program manager Dominic Garcia

Award on HIV/AIDS for media launched

THE 1st FVR Excellence Award on HIV/AIDS for Media has been launched to instill a deeper understanding and awareness of HIV/AIDS among Filipinos, political leaders and civic organizations.

Initiated by the AIDS Society of the Philippines (ASP), the FVR Excellence Award on HIV/AIDS for Media is the new category in this year's 7th AIDS Media Award, which honors media practitioners who have done responsible and exemplary HIV/AIDS reports in print and broadcast.

The FVR Excellence Award on HIV/AIDS for Media was named after former President Fidel V. Ramos, who, during his presidency, signed in 1998 Republic Act 8504, otherwise known as the Philippine Prevention and Control Act on AIDS. It was cited by the UNAIDS as one of the best practices on HIV/AIDS law and governance.

In the Philippines, it is estimated that between 5,000 and 13,000 people are living with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes the deadly acquired immune deficiency symdrome.

Ramos said mobilizing the resources and leadership of the media could bring the problem of HIV/AIDS out in the open and encourage Filipinos to change risky behaviors and make responsible choices. Education through media in whatever form, he stressed, was still the most effective way to combat the dreaded disease.

Eligible for nomination to the award are Filipino media practitioners who have created written and broadcast features on HIV/AIDS for two consecutive years. The nominees' works will be judged according to professional excellence and achievement in media reporting (40 percent), service and commitment on HIV/AIDS prevention and control (30 percent), and positive impact that made significant benefit to the community (30 percent).

Nomination forms may be submitted to The AIDS Society of the Philippines, Rm. 401, 4/F Doña Felisa Syjuco Building, 1872 Remedios St., Malate, Manila. Call 5231334/5365509/5365694 or fax 5365512 or e-mail aidsphil@pacificnet.ph and sbw@pacific.net.ph or visit its website at www.aidsphil.org. Deadline for submission is Oct. 31. The FVR Excellence Award on HIV/AIDS for Media will be awarded every two years. The winner, who will get a cash prize of P100,000 and a trophy, will be announced during the World AIDS Day celebration on Dec. 1.

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Take Charge Doc!

What are the common types of childhood cancer?

Cancer in children are grouped into leukemias and pediatric solid tumors. Most of these cancers are curable, but these depend greatly on the early detection of the disease.

Leukemia, the most common childhood cancer, is a malignancy of the early blood-forming cells. The initial symptoms are prolonged or low grade fever as well as bone or joint pains resulting to the child's limping gait.

Most pediatric solid tumors present as tumor masses. The most common of these found in children are brain tumors. Other common childhood cancers under this group include retinoblastoma, the most common cancer of the eyes, Wilm's tumor, a malignant disease of the kidneys, Neuroblastoma, a tumor of the sympathetic nervous system and Lymphoma, a malignant disease of the lymph node which presents as tumor masses usually in the neck typified by progressive enlargement of the neck lymph nodes that fail to respond to treatment.

Dr. Pelagio V. Iriarte, Jr. enlightens us on the cancers common to children. Dr. Iriarte, who practices in Davao Doctors Hospital, specializes in the field of Pediatrics. He finished medicine at the University of Santo Tomas and took his residency training for his specialization at Charles V. Chapin Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island and at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He also holds a subspecialty in Pediatric Oncology. Dr. Iriarte has had over 40 years of clinical experience and is a fellow to the Philippine Pediatric Society and Philippine Society of Medical Oncology. MEDICard members may visit him for their consultation needs on weekdays from 10 AM until 1 PM and again from 4 PM to 6 in the evening

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

MEDICard [illegible]

Hair-friendly program

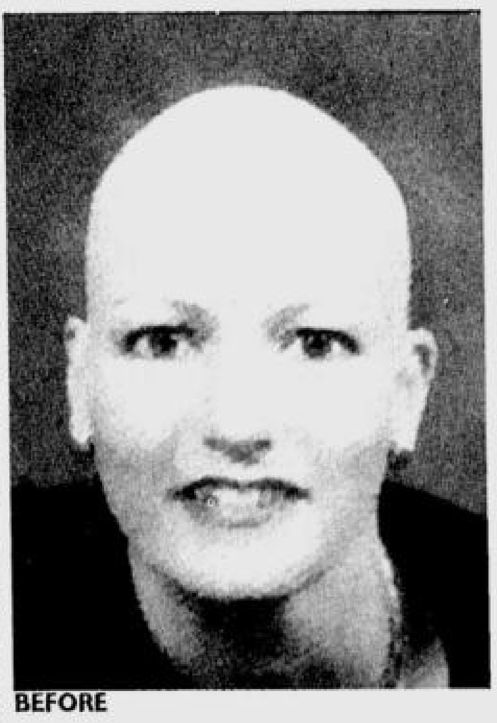
HAIRWEAR Friends is a special program developed by Hairwear Creative Hair Systems to answer the special needs of those with medical hair loss.

Members of Hairwear Friends can get customized, vacuum-fitted hairpieces designed for those who have lost most, if not all, of their scalp hair.

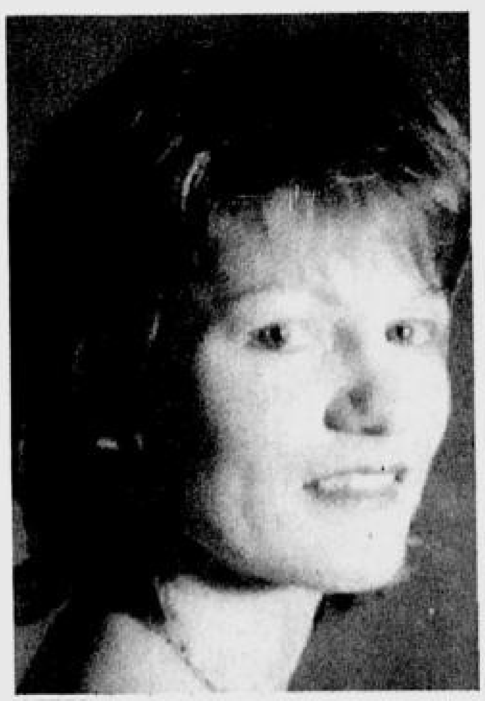
Most of them are undergoing chemotherapy, which, because it targets fast-growing cancer cells, also affects fast-growing hair cells. Others may have suffered severe burns or are afflicted with an autoimmune condition called alopecia for which there is no known cause or cure. Then there are others, mostly women, who have not been blessed with hair since they were born.

Hairwear Friends offers a number of products and services, from 24-hour consultation hotline to big discounts.

Hairwear is located at the G/F Francisco Building, 16 Timog Ave., Quezon City. Call 4145957/0917-5232504.



BEFORE



AFTER

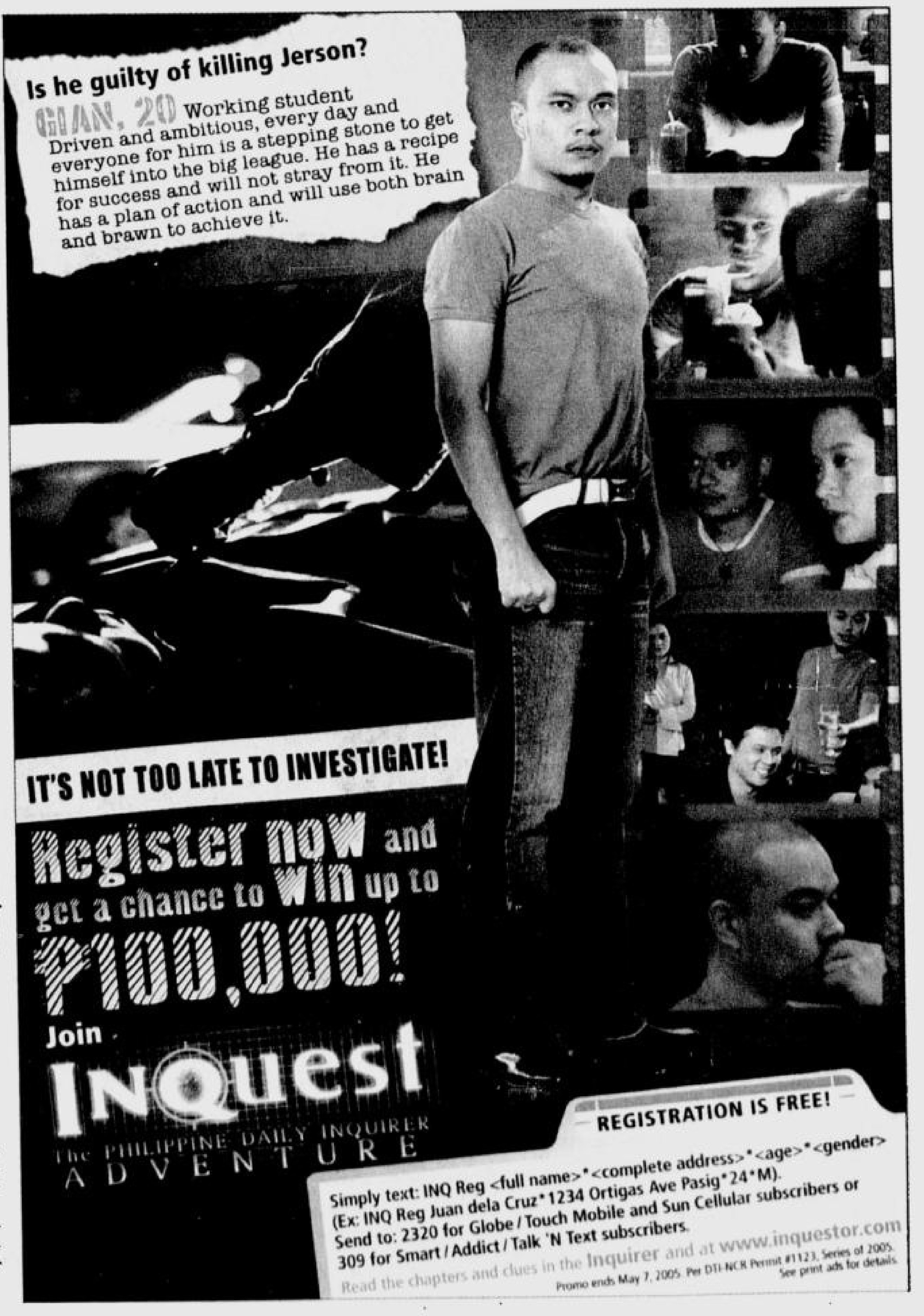
Mountaineers open climb April 9-10

THE University of the Philippines Mountaineers is holding the Talikasan Open Climb April 9-10 at Bagsit River, Zambales.

The Bagsit River drains the southern side of Mt. Tapulao, the highest mountain in the Zambales mountain range. Talikasan climbs are suited for beginners and outdoor enthusiasts.

A pre-climb meeting will be held 7 p.m., April 6, at the UP Mountaineers Tambayan, North Wing, Main Library, UP Diliman, Quezon City.

Registration is P1,000 inclusive of transportation and guide fees. Limited slots available. Call Dennis Lopez at 0918-9375816 or e-mail upm04apps@yahoo.com.



Is he guilty of killing Jerson?

GIAN, 20 Working student
Driven and ambitious, every day and everyone for him is a stepping stone to get himself into the big league. He has a recipe for success and will not stray from it. He has a plan of action and will use both brain and brawn to achieve it.

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Send to: 2320 for Globe / Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular subscribers or 309 for Smart / Addict / Talk 'N Text subscribers.

Read the chapters and clues in the Inquirer and at www.inquestor.com

Promo ends May 7, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit #1123, Series of 2005. See print ads for details.

ILLUSTRATION BY L.A. MISTADES

Fast food fixes

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

QUICK, cheap and convenient are the trademarks of "fast food." Unfortunately, fast food is also usually high in calories, fat, refined carbohydrates, sugar and salt.

If you eat fast food only occasionally (as in once every two to three months), then no harm is done. But if you eat it several times a week, you may be consuming more calories than you need.

If you want to minimize the caloric intake, here are tips for keeping things under control.

Downsize

The fastest way to cut down on calories is to opt for smaller portions. One McDonald's hamburger has 280 calories, a quarter pounder has 430 calories, while a Big Mac has 590. You save 310 calories by choosing a hamburger over the Big Mac.

Choosing a smaller pack of French fries will also help you reduce calories. A small McDonald's French fries pack contains 210 calories, the medium size has 450, the large size 540 and the super size 610.

The amounts of calories are more or less similar for same size products of different fast food chains.

High-calorie extras

"Extras" like mayonnaise, cheese and gravy mean extra calories. For example, a quarter pounder with cheese has an additional 90 calories. Here is a quick list of common condiments usually found in fast food restaurants and the calories per packet:

- Ketchup, 10 calories
- Barbecue sauce, hot mustard sauce, honey mustard, 50 calories
- Mayonnaise, 95 calories
- "Secret sauce" (usually a mix of gravy and spices), 50-100 calories

Salad—burger in a bowl?

In an attempt to give consumers healthier choices, some fast food restaurants have added salads to their menus. But even though low-calorie fresh greens are the foundation of a salad, you can end up eating what one nutritionist has called "a burger in a bowl" with extras like fried chicken strips, croutons and salad dressing. In other words, a salad with all the trimmings can have as many calories as or more than a large cheeseburger.

Salad dressing can contain anywhere from 160-230 calories per packet. Stay in control by keeping the dressing on the side. Dip your fork in the dressing then spear your salad greens.

A packet of garlic croutons has 50 calories. Fried chicken strips or nuggets can contain from 200-280 calories.

Any salad made with mayonnaise tends to be high in calories. Examples are potato salad, coleslaw and macaroni salad.

Pizza

Very few people will eat more than one burger at a time but many will reach for a second slice of pizza. In fact, it takes a lot of willpower not to have that second serving.

Well, depending on the type of pizza you order, you can be consuming more calories by eating several slices than eating two or three plain hamburgers.

One slice (1/8 of a medium pizza pie) of a thin crust multi-meat pizza with cheese has 270 calories. If you order the thick crust version, the caloric count jumps to 340 calories. By having several slices, you can see how eating your way to 1,000 calories in one sitting is not too farfetched.

According to the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), several ways to cut down on pizza calories is to choose the thin crust over thick, order half the cheese and choose vegetable toppings over meat.

When ordering meat toppings, the CSPI says chicken and ham are the best caloric choices followed by pepperoni. Sausage, pork and beef toppings have the highest numbers of calories.

If you are serious about calorie counting, the CSPI recommends staying away from "stuffed crust" pizza. According to CSPI nutritionist Jayne Hurley, "You need cheese stuffed into a pizza crust like you need reverse liposuction to force more fat under your skin."

Chicken/fish not always low in calories

Chicken and fish are better calorie choices but only if they are grilled, broiled or roasted. Breaded and fried chicken or fish sandwiches can be the caloric equivalents of a cheeseburger.

When eating a grilled chicken sandwich, be aware of what kind and how many condiments you are adding because you can tack on 100-200 calories.

When eating fried chicken, the drumstick seems to have the fewest calories. Here is the caloric content of KFC's Original Recipe fried chicken:

- Whole wing, 150
- Breast, 380
- Thigh, 360
- Drumstick, 140

Don't drown in liquid calories

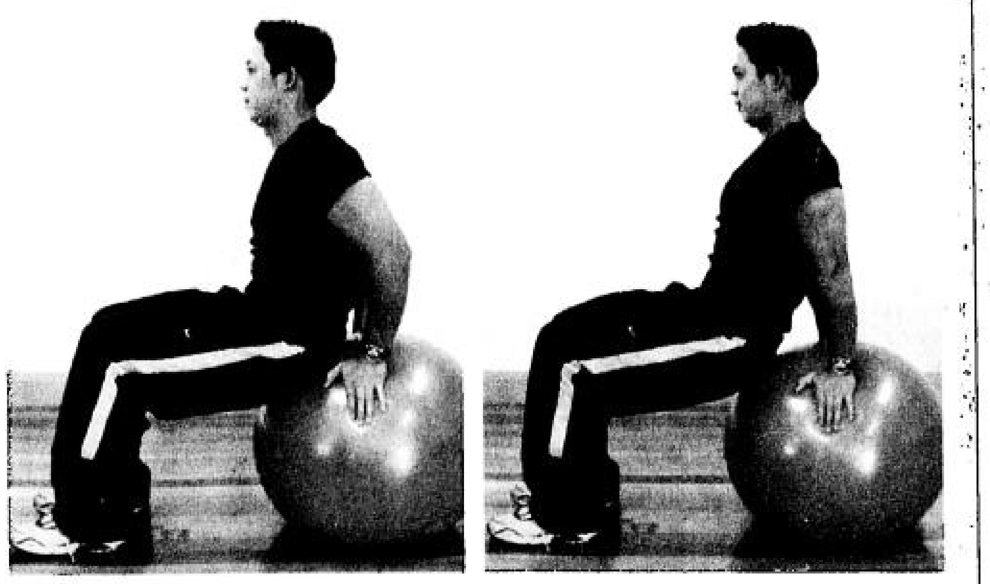
A smart way to save calories when you eat in a fast-food restaurant is to drink water instead of something high in sugar or to choose a smaller size beverage. Check out these caloric counts:

- Small soft drink, 150
- Medium soft drink, 210
- Large soft drink, 310
- Super size soft drink, 410

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Triceps dip on stability ball



THIS EXERCISE uses your body weight as resistance to strengthen the triceps or muscles at the back of the arm. It also challenges your trunk and leg muscles.

Equipment:

Stability ball. A chair or gym bench can be used as substitute.

Exercise technique:

1. Sit at the edge of the ball with your feet under your knees and your hands a little behind your hips palms facing down. Your elbows should be bent.
2. Straighten your elbows and swing your hips slightly forward.
3. Return to starting position by bringing your hips back on the ball and bending your elbows.
4. Do the desired number of repetitions.

Performance tips:

1. Exhale as you straighten your elbows; inhale as you return to starting position.
2. Focus on contracting your triceps instead of just pressing your hands down on the ball.
3. Fully straighten your elbows but avoid hyperextending them. Move with control. Do not jerk or snap your elbow joint.

Repetitions:

12-15 repetitions.

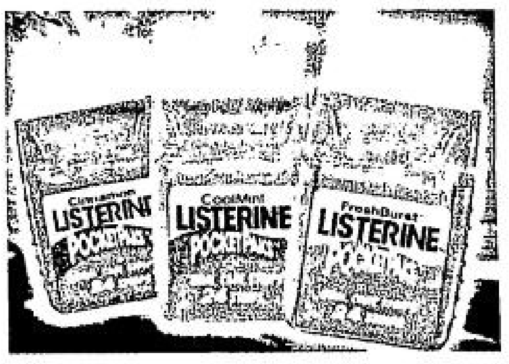
Experiencing fresh breath anytime, anywhere

LISTERINE PocketPaks has become the person-on-the-go's constant oral care companion. It has been a huge hit among yuppies, partygoers and bar habitués, generating more than US$100 million in sales on its first year alone.

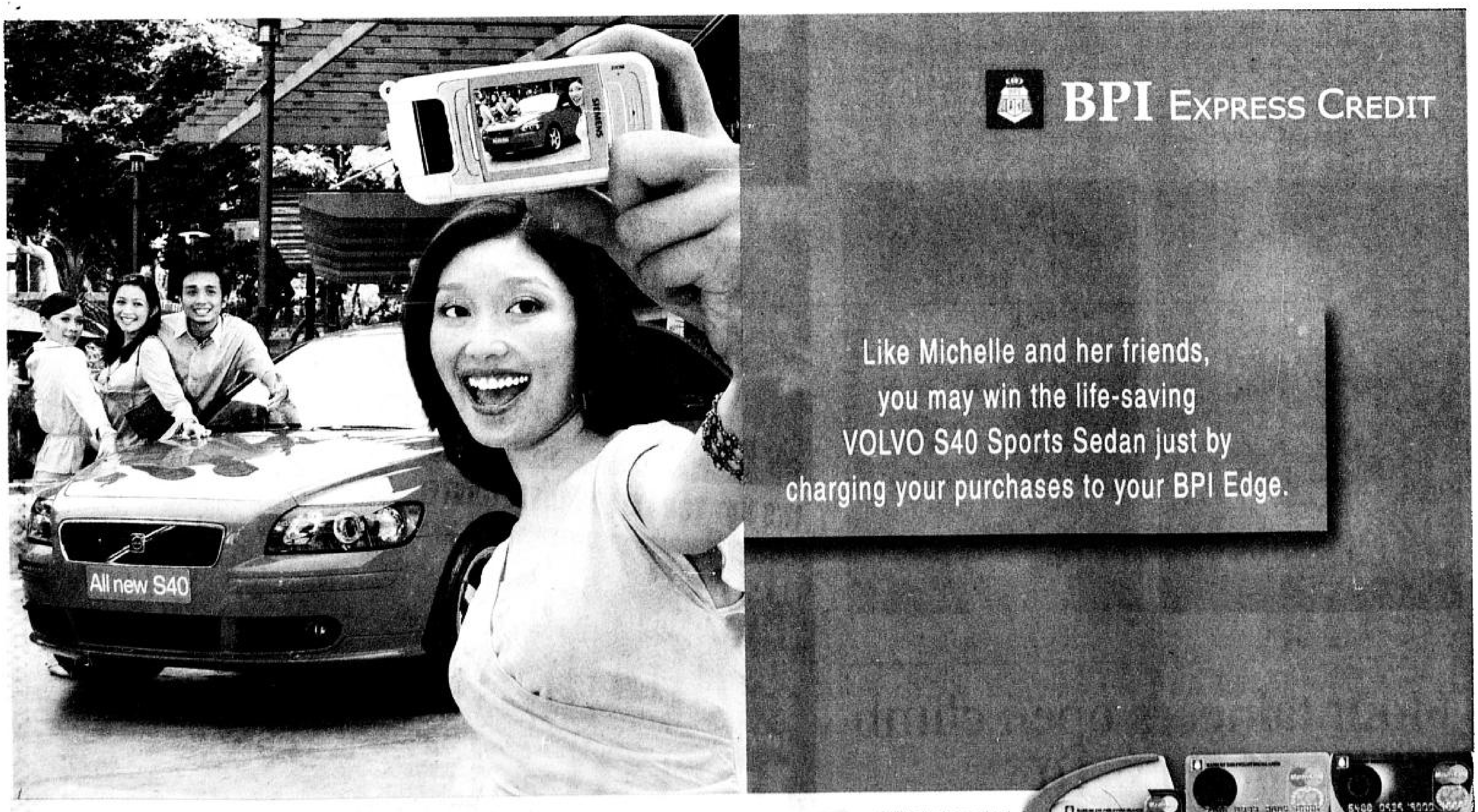
The handy, ultra-thin strips dissolve instantly on the tongue. Unlike gums and mints that simply mask bad breath, Listerine PocketPaks kills 99.9 percent of bad breath-causing mouth germs.

Listerine PocketPaks was included in Business Week's Best New Products of the Year 2001. In 2002, it was proclaimed one of the year's best inventions by both Forbes Magazine and Time Magazine.

Now, Pfizer Consumer Healthcare gives patrons a chance to double the experience the cool, instant fresh breath Listerine PocketPaks provides. For a limited time, every purchase of Coolmint Listerine PocketPaks in 24's or blister pack entitles a customer to another vial for free.



LISTERINE PocketPaks—a big idea in a small pack available in Cinnamon, CoolMint and Freshburst flavors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Like Michelle and her friends, you may win the life-saving VOLVO S40 Sports Sedan just by charging your purchases to your BPI Edge.
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VOLVO for life SIEMENS

The BPI VOLVO Lifestyle Promo

BPI Edge gives you the chance to drive home a Volvo S40. Simply charge your purchases to your BPI Edge or Mini Edge. Every P500 purchase gives you one raffle entry. To join, register your purchases by calling the promo hotline: 683-0008 for Metro Manila callers; 1-800-10-683-0008 for callers outside Metro Manila.

You can also register your purchases through email: bpi.lifestyle@1isa.com. Just email the following purchase information as they appear in your charge slip: (1) 16-digit BPI Express Credit Card number (2) transaction amount, including centavos (3) transaction date: mm/dd/yy (4) transaction time: hh/mm.

Promo period: November 15, 2004-April 30, 2005. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3121, Series of 2004

PLUS! Win this when you apply now! All approved BPI Edge/Mini Edge applications including BPI Edge/Mini Edge applications submitted by existing active BPI cardholders, from March 15 to May 15, 2005 will get a chance to win 1 of 10 Siemens SF65 mobile phones with a 1.3 megapixel SXGA camera!

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0598, Series of 2005

Approved applications during the promo period will also earn raffle entries. For application and inquiries, call BPI Express Phone 89-100, visit any BPI or BPI Family Bank branch or Express Banking Center or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com.

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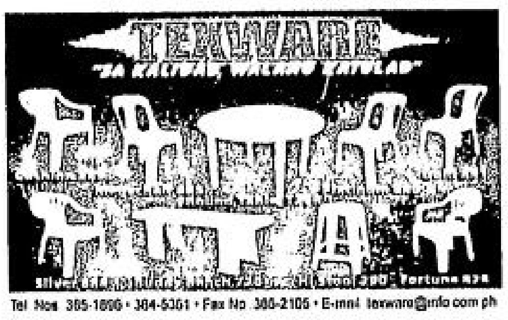
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Water for life

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

WATER is considered one of the most important nutrients needed by the human body in order to ensure good health and, yes, survival.

Its role:

- Regulates body temperature
- Excretes waste products from the lungs, skin and kidneys
- Excretes toxins

In the order of importance, the human body needs air, food and water. The body loses water through sweat/perspiration, urine and bowel movement. Total water loss per day is 2.5 liters (10 cups). Water loss could be much more during hot days.

It is recommended to replace water lost by consuming more than the actual 10 cups that are excreted. One cup is equivalent to one glass. Thus, 12-15 glasses of water is a healthy consumption rate.

But how much is enough depends on a person's activity level. The general rule is, the more active you are, the more water you require. The Food and Nutrition Institute, Department of Science and Technology (FNRI-DOST) recommends an intake of 1 ml per kilo-calorie (Kcal) of energy expenditure.

Example: An average man whose energy expenditure is 2,490 Kcal would require 2.4 liters or 9-10 cups of water daily.

Experts say water needs may vary according to a person's lifestyle, body weight and environmental temperature. However, note that the younger the individual, the greater the need for water per body weight.

The following are the causes of water loss;

- Alcohol—For every glass of alcohol, you lose 1 glass of water.
- Stimulant drinks—colas, caffeine, coffee, tea. These are natural diuretics (substances that increase urine production), so drink water after every serving of any of these drinks.
- Activity/exercise—Sweating means loss of fluids. Add an extra liter of water for every hour you exercise.
- Sleeping—While sleeping, the body loses fluids through normal metabolism and sweating. When you get up in the morning, rehydrate with one full glass of tepid water (not cold). Also, make sure your breakfast has high water content like yoghurt and fruits.

Illness/recovery

When you are sick, the immune system works overtime to fight the infection or viruses. When you are feverish, you become dehydrated. Keep your fluid intake high.

Spices/stimulant foods

Your favorite herbs can dehydrate you like curries, chili, spices, juniper, dandelion and nettle teas. Foods that increase the heat in the body use up your fluids. If you are taking any diuretic products, take more water.

Urination

Obviously, the more often you go to the bathroom, the more you lose fluids. Have a glass of water after you empty your bladders.

Here's a water nutrition plan:

- Drink at least two liters of water—pure, plain as you can take it, daily (approximately 9-10 cups). Anything you drink over and above this is extra. Never consider a beverage as a substitute for your daily water intake.
- Eat at least three full meals a day or five small meals daily.
- Eat at least five portions of vegetables daily.
- Eat at least five servings of fruits daily.
- Eat two portions of fish, beans/pulses a day.
- Eat at least one portion of rice a day (preferably brown or red).
- Eat at least one portion of oil or cheese per day (note: this already includes the oil used in cooking).

The Fluid Law: The more you drink water the more you have. You can't overdose on it.

Health and beauty bath

Kneipp bathing—Sebastian Kneipp developed in the 19th century a technique to ensure and stimulate free flow of blood and circulation using water in alternating temperatures—hot and cold. He believed that hydrotherapy (using water as therapy) and thermotherapy (temperature as therapy) were essential to body health. The center for his treatments is in Bad Worishofen, Germany.

But you can have the Kneipp bath in the privacy of your own home if you don't have the time to visit a spa.

If your shower and bathtub are separate, it's easy. Run a hot bath as much as is comfortable. Soak in the hot bath for three minutes. Get into the shower for a cold rinse for one minute. Repeat five times, and feel revitalized. (Note: In the absence of bath and shower, dousing yourself in alternating splashes of hot and cold might just do the trick.)

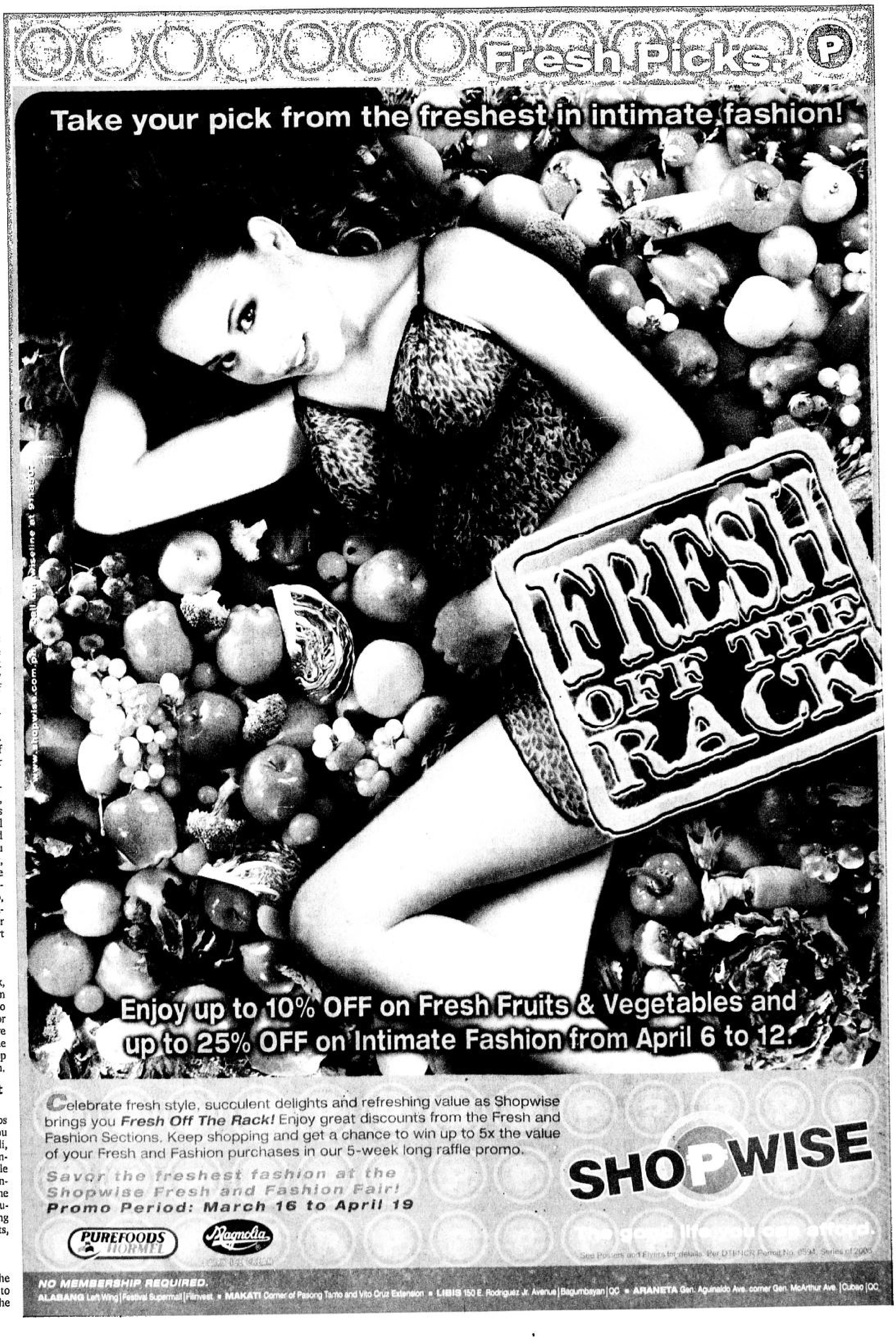
Bowl bathing—Get two large bowls. Fill one with cold water and the other with hot. Place both feet in hot water for two minutes. Then immerse them in cold water for two minutes. Repeat five times. Feel balanced and renewed.

Your affirmation:

"Let the waters of life run through me."

Love and light!

Reference: Jane Scrivner's "Water Detox".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See Posters and Flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0594, Series of 2005

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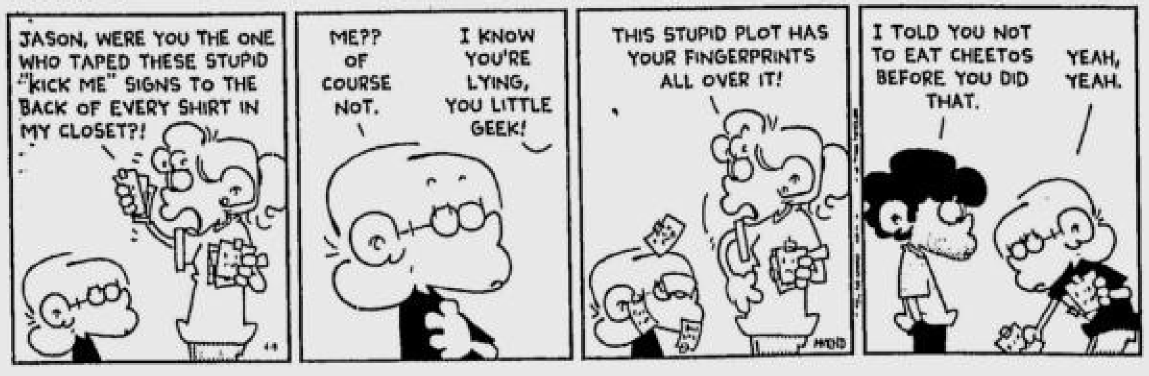
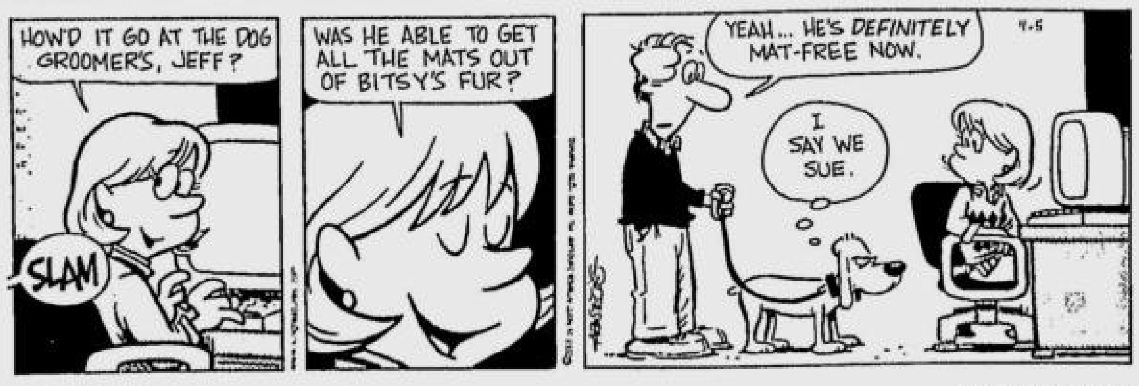
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


JASON, WERE YOU THE ONE WHO TAPED THESE STUPID "KICK ME" SIGNS TO THE BACK OF EVERY SHIRT IN MY CLOSET?!
ME?? OF COURSE NOT.
I KNOW YOU'RE LYING, YOU LITTLE GEEK!
THIS STUPID PLOT HAS YOUR FINGERPRINTS ALL OVER IT!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO EAT CHEETOS BEFORE YOU DID THAT.
YEAH, YEAH.

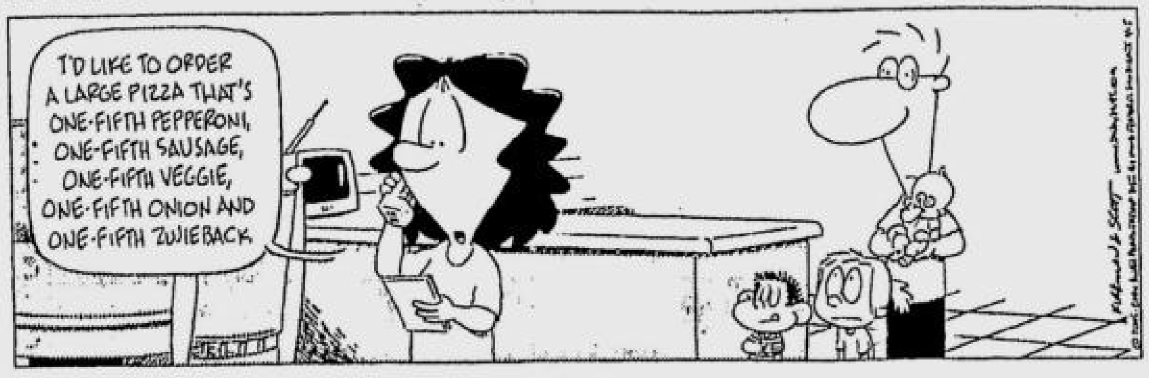
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


HOW'D IT GO AT THE DOG GROOMER'S, JEFF?
SLAM
WAS HE ABLE TO GET ALL THE MATS OUT OF BITSY'S FUR?
YEAH... HE'S DEFINITELY MAT-FREE NOW.
I SAY WE SUE.

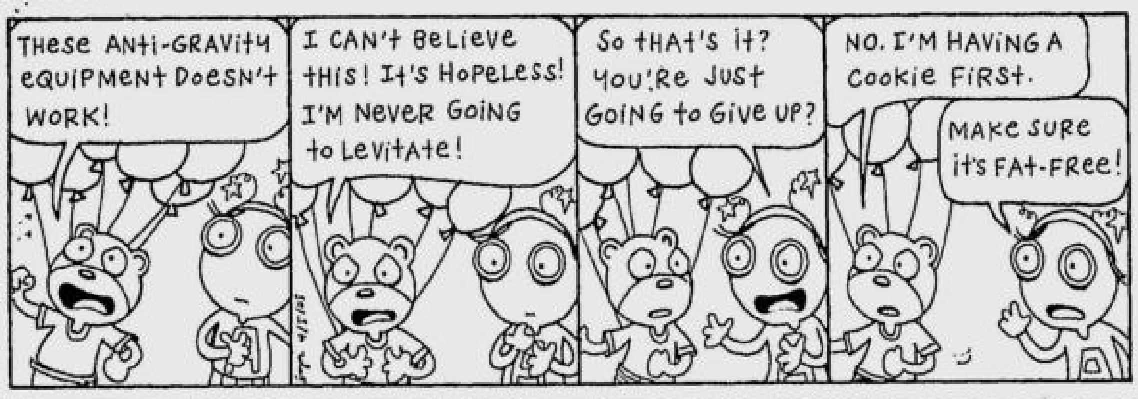
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'D LIKE TO ORDER A LARGE PIZZA THAT'S ONE-FIFTH PEPPERONI, ONE-FIFTH SAUSAGE, ONE-FIFTH VEGGIE, ONE-FIFTH ONION AND ONE-FIFTH ZWIEBACK.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


These Anti-Gravity equipment Doesn't work!
I can't Believe this! It's Hopeless! I'm Never Going to Levitate!
So that's it? You're Just Going to Give up?
No. I'm Having a Cookie First.
Make sure it's Fat-Free!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are solid, reliable and hardworking. There is a no-nonsense quality about you. You appear confident and self-composed; you're also modest. These qualities make others respect you. You often have one lifetime profession that you steadily pursue. You are always direct and forthright. Increased solitude this year allows you to study something important.

Birthdate of: Michael Moriarty, actor; Gregory Peck, actor; Colin Powell, former secretary of state.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Time spent with friends today will be sweetly rewarding. You feel very tender in your heart toward others. You see the value of friendship. (This is good.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You are surprisingly selfless today. You wish to put the needs of others before your own. In particular, you might voice this generous opinion to bosses, superiors and parents.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You find it easy to be tolerant and nonjudgmental today, especially about other cultures and people who have a different background from yours. (This is a broadening experience for you.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Others are generous to you today! In fact, this might be so obvious that people notice your good fortune. Certainly, it appears that someone slightly envies you right now.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You long to travel somewhere exotic and different. You want to explore the world beyond your daily routine. If you cannot travel, perhaps you can do this through study or watching films. Do something different today!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Romantic relations are very sweet and tender today. Kindness and consideration for others is paramount right now. Friends become lovers; lovers become friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is the perfect day to patch up misunderstandings. You have warm feelings toward everyone, especially partners and close friends. Dealings with the general public are also successful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a good day at work. Co-workers are cooperative; in turn, you feel kind toward them. Work connected with real estate, counseling, oil and gas, and pharmaceuticals is especially favored.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your creative vibes are fabulous today! Do any kind of artistic activity if you can. Playful times with children will be sweet and delightful. (Love at first sight is possible today.)

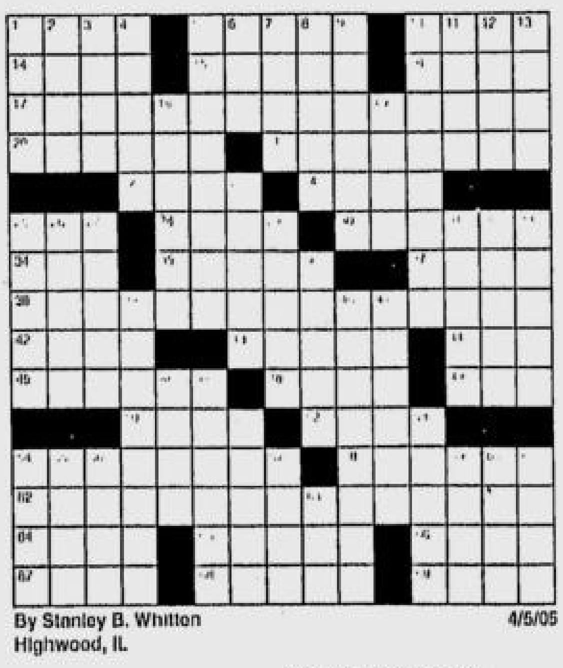
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is an excellent day for real estate deals. It's also a good day to entertain at home. Family businesses and family discussions go very smoothly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a good day for business and commerce. It's also an excellent day to sign contracts and come to agreements with others. Both parties are happy.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): If you go shopping today, you'll buy luxurious items. You might also buy things for loved ones. You're feeling particularly generous and extravagant!

GASFAR
fuel saving tips
WATCH YOUR POWER ACCESSORIES
Shut off any power consuming gadgets in your vehicle before turning off the engine. This lessens the power load the next time you start your vehicle.

DAILY CROSSWORD

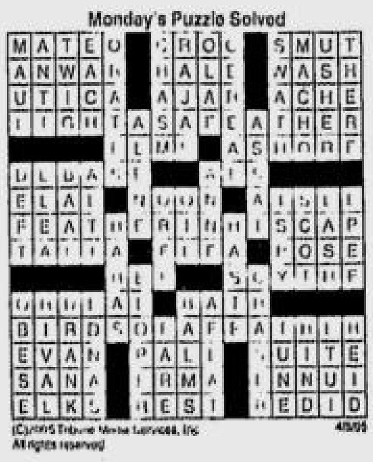


By Stanley B. Whitton
Highwood, IL
4/5/05

ACROSS
1 Bistro
5 Metal coat
10 Desert lily
14 Norwegian saint
15 Restrict
16 Played for a sap
17 Music, please!
20 Small bird
21 Highland sheepdogs
22 Grayish
24 Airline to Israel
25 Put down
28 Daytime TV choice
30 Expressions of scorn
34 Galena or mispickel
36 Goofed
37 Editorial notation
38 Music, please!
42 Cousin of the NYSE
43 Beauty parlor
44 Kisser or mush
45 Spears
48 Light gas
49 Hi-fi discs
50 Aladdin's possession
52 Lose footing
54 Bird keeper
58 Up the creek
62 Music, please!
64 Biblical kingdom
65 Detests
66 Vegas gaming machine
67 Jolly old salts
68 Sugary
69 Bunsen burner's ancestor

DOWN
1 Expense
2 Choir member
3 Grange
4 Madonna or Lupone role
5 Excess
6 Lucy of "Charlie's Angels"
7 Elec. units
8 Church contribution
9 Kennedy and Marman
10 Most abstruse
11 Morales of "Bad Boys"
12 Hackman or Kelly
13 Track figures
18 Locked lips
19 Verve
23 Stories
25 Nearby
26 Odor
27 Country on the Red Sea
29 Nutty pie
31 __ chloride (refrigerant)
32 Change charts
33 Dance movements
35 Removes text
39 Cries out suddenly
40 Most fuzzy
41 Six-out segment
46 Merit
47 Bessie and Kate
51 Shucks!
53 Brief stop
54 Cover for a crook
55 Sacred books of Hinduism
56 Stravinsky or Sikorsky
57 Pierre's noggin
59 Leave at the altar
60 In a short while
61 Physical start?
63 Quilters' gathering

Monday's Puzzle Solved



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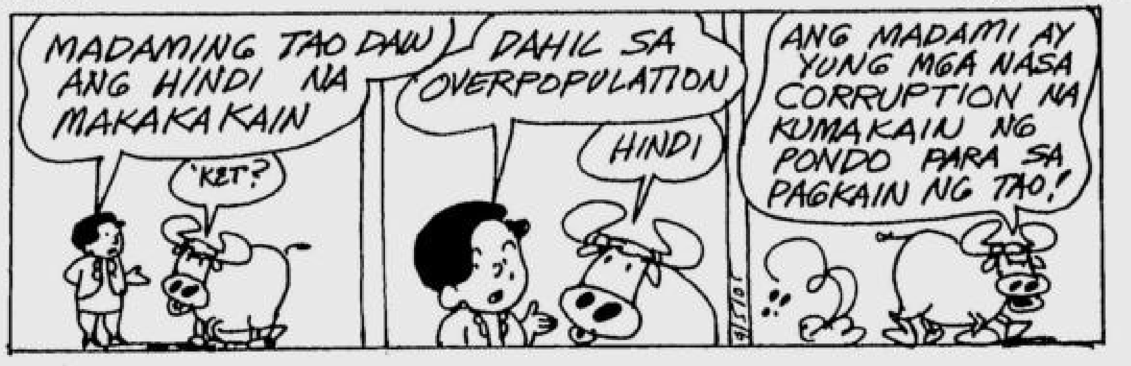
4/5/05

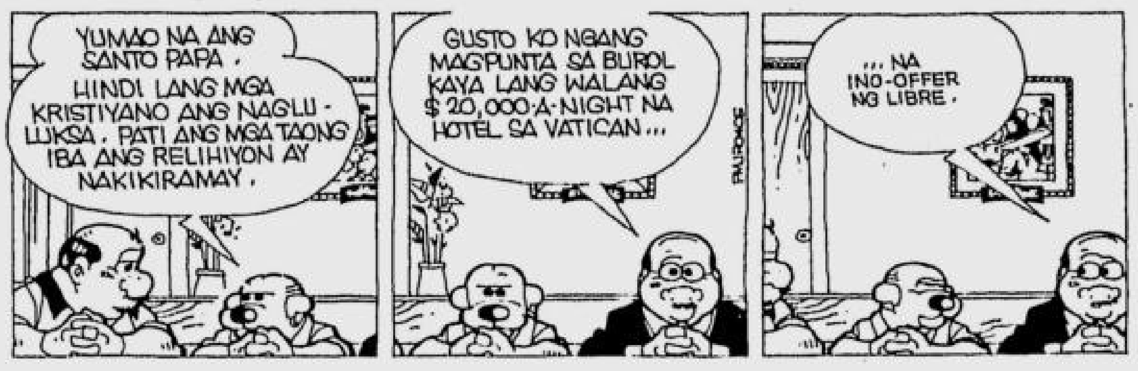
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MADAMING TAO DAW ANG HINDI NA MAKAKAKAIN
'KET?
DAHIL SA OVERPOPULATION
HINDI
ANG MADAMI AY YUNG MGA NASA CORRUPTION NA KUMAKAIN NG PONDO PARA SA PAGKAIN NG TAO!

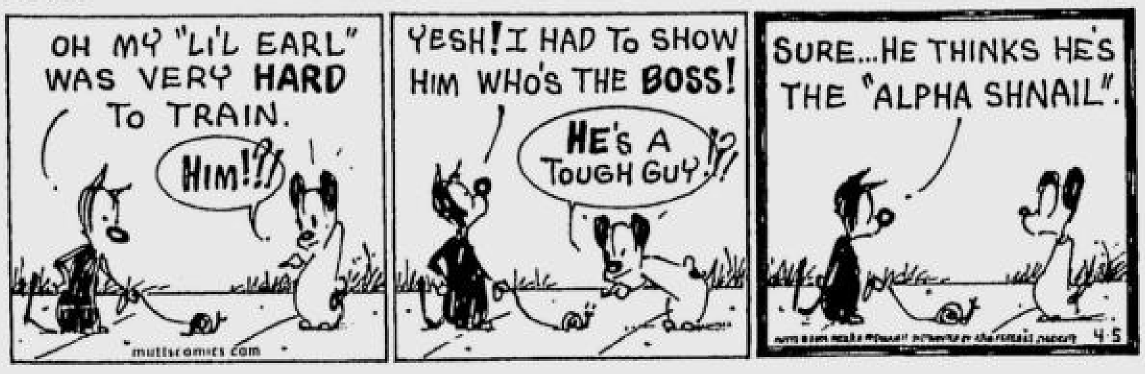
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


YUMAO NA ANG SANTO PAPA. HINDI LANG MGA KRISTIYANO ANG NAGLULUKSA. PATI ANG MGA TAONG IBA ANG RELIHIYON AY NAKIKIRAMAY.
GUSTO KO NGANG MAGPUNTA SA BUROL KAYA LANG WALANG $20,000-A-NIGHT NA HOTEL SA VATICAN...
... NA INO-OFFER NG LIBRE.

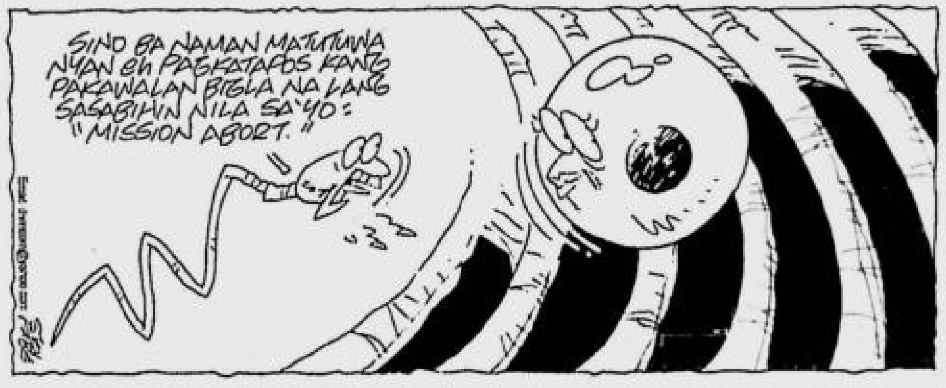
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH MY "LI'L EARL" WAS VERY HARD TO TRAIN.
HIM!?!
YESH! I HAD TO SHOW HIM WHO'S THE BOSS!
HE'S A TOUGH GUY!?
SURE...HE THINKS HE'S THE "ALPHA SHNAIL".
muttscomics.com

DIVINE COMEDY

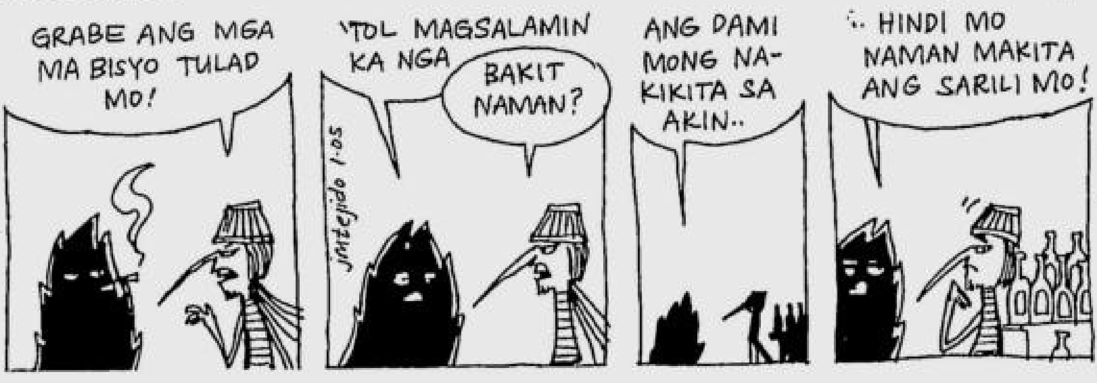
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SINO BA NAMAN MATUTUWA NYAN EH PAGKATAPOS KANG PAKAWALAN BIGLA NA LANG SASABIHIN NILA SA'YO: "MISSION ABORT."

AIRING GRIEVANCES AT THE CELLULAR LEVEL

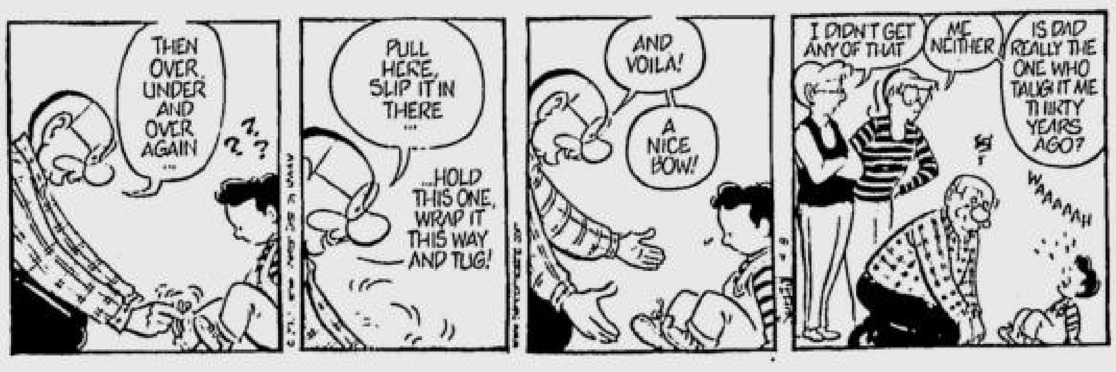
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


GRABE ANG MGA MA BISYO TULAD MO!
'TOL MAGSALAMIN KA NGA
BAKIT NAMAN?
ANG DAMI MONG NAKIKITA SA AKIN..
.. HINDI MO NAMAN MAKITA ANG SARILI MO!

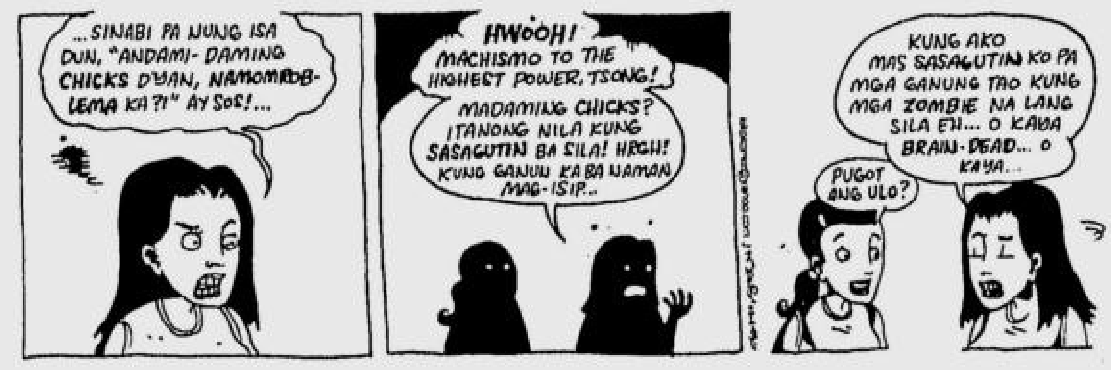
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THEN OVER, UNDER AND OVER AGAIN ...
PULL HERE, SLIP IT IN THERE ...
...HOLD THIS ONE, WRAP IT THIS WAY AND TUG!
AND VOILA!
A NICE BOW!
I DIDN'T GET ANY OF THAT
ME NEITHER
IS DAD REALLY THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME THIRTY YEARS AGO?
WAAAAAH

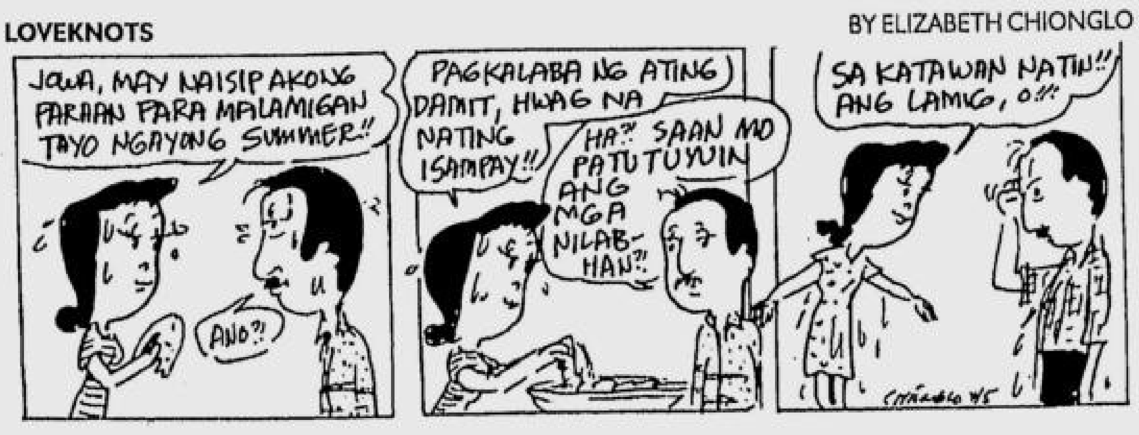
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


...SINABI PA NUNG ISA DUN, "ANDAMI-DAMING CHICKS D'YAN, NAMOMROBLEMA KA?!" AY SOS!...
HWOOH! MACHISMO TO THE HIGHEST POWER, TSONG! MADAMING CHICKS? ITANONG NILA KUNG SASAGUTIN BA SILA! HRGH! KUNG GANUN KA BA NAMAN MAG-ISIP..
KUNG AKO MAS SASAGUTIN KO PA MGA GANUNG TAO KUNG MGA ZOMBIE NA LANG SILA EH... O KAYA BRAIN-DEAD... O KAYA...
PUGOT ANG ULO?

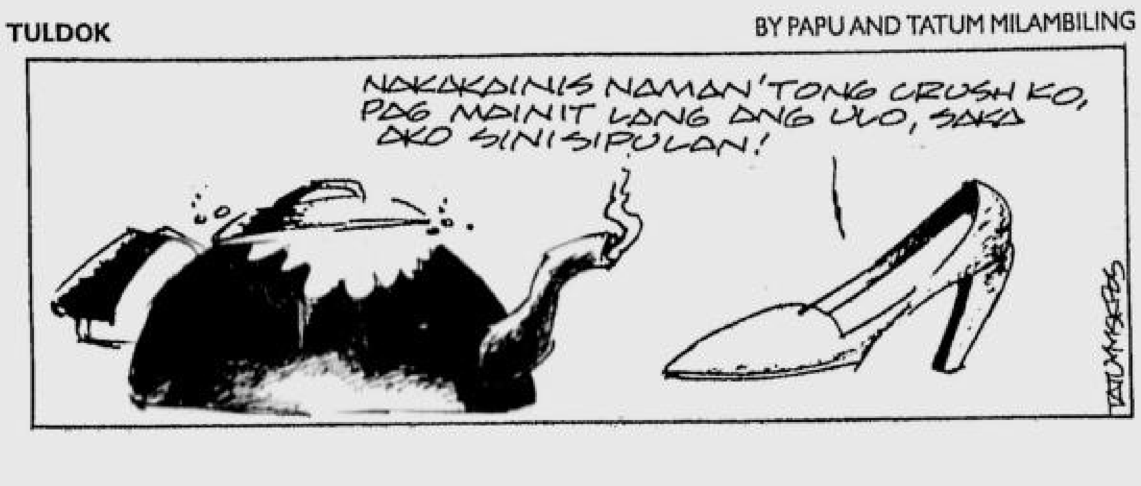
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, MAY NAISIP AKONG PARAAN PARA MALAMIGAN TAYO NGAYONG SUMMER!!
ANO?!
PAGKALABA NG ATING DAMIT, HWAG NA NATING ISAMPAY!!
HA?! SAAN MO PATUTUYUIN ANG MGA NILABHAN?!
SA KATAWAN NATIN!! ANG LAMIG, O!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NAKAKAINIS NAMAN 'TONG CRUSH KO, PAG MAINIT LANG ANG ULO, SAKA AKO SINISIPULAN!

THE GRAND host of the fab bash, Jarlath Lynch, the popular general manager of Makati Shangri-La who knows how to party with his gang of employees

THE BEATLES. Danny Bongco, Danny Cuevas, Jun Cortes and Jorge Tecson of Engineering Department, in full flower power, grooved to the hit songs of the '60s.

CALORIFIC GANG. Executive pastry chef Werner Schanzl, F&B service's Daryl Pajarito, Juanito Ynasa and Edwin Dumagsang

THE JUDGES: Donnie Ramirez, with PDI's Body Beautiful gal Cory Quirino and songwriter Jesse Lucas

THE AGE OF AQUARIUS. (standing) Spy Mejia; with Tomz Hino of Front Office; Henry Agustin, duty manager; and Pery Avecilla of Housekeeping

Blast from the past

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

LEAVE it to that top-of-the-line hotel to organize a truly memorable happening of unparalleled splendor, glamour and fun.

The Makati Shangri-La's hardworking employees converged at the grand Rizal Ballroom recently for their annual celebration, dubbed "Blast from the Past" this year.

The once-a-year event was made possible through the tireless efforts of the Human Resources Division, *palanggas*, headed by **Merce Santos; Bingbing Lingao**, director for events management; **Mai Mislang** of communications; **Boyet Albacea**, director of banquet services; and executive sous chef **Gene del Prado.**

Yes, dahlings, the past was relived in vivid and exciting colors.

The stage was set for an epic chronicle of the past, each department enacting important decades. Among them were the marketing division in fabulous '50s style with their cute poodle skirts and boogie woogies. Their very own Marilyn Monroe, played by **Katrina Delgado** from Events, beguiled the men by singing "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend."

"John Travolta," portrayed by **Bernhard Wimmer**, executive assistant manager, Rooms Division, was in his "Saturday Night Fever" best. The F&B Service paid tribute to the heroes of the '80s rock culture.

Cash prizes of up to a cool P60,000 were given to the winners chosen by a panel of judges.

Grand winner was the Rooms division; second prize went to F&B Service and third prize was given to Human Resources, Security and Engineering.

And what would Makati Shangri-La's celebration be without the amazing cast from the Executive Committee led by its popular, workaholic general manager **Jarlath Lynch** and his Execom rahl rahl members?

Then it was grooving time with the Rockin' Revival and the one-of-a-kind Spirit of '67. Everyone rocked the floor in the fantastic company of the gorgeous people they work with. It was an awesome break for the employees, who work hard and party harder. Shangri-La Makati gladly hosted the event for the people who really make the hotel what it is today, *palanggas*.

Amigo at 20

"They are all here," gushed **Dado Tan** of GM 6 Iloilo and Panay News' super asset, **John B. Castigator**. Yes, *palanggas*, everyone who's anyone and diehard lovers of rock and roll were there for RJ and Friends and the fab 20th anniversary party of the legendary Amigo Hotel Iloilo. The celebration featured the King of Rock himself, **Ramon Jacinto**, and his swinging band, *natch*.

Well, *palanggas*, the Corral Ballroom of Amigo Hotel literally rocked and rolled as Metro Iloilo's sociable and fashionable danced, grooved, shimmied and gyrated to danceable music of the '50s, '60s, '80s and '90s, as well as today's top hits. They filled the ballroom and brushed shoulders, rubbed elbows, bumped butts, knocked knees and stepped on toes in a night of fun, fun, fun!

It was no surprise at all that all the hotel's rooms were booked that weekend for this happening.

Event organizers, mega businessman **Chito Miclat** and vivacious **Stella Arungayan**, beamed from ear to ear, proud of the fabulous turnout for the hotel's anniversary party. The last time we heard, they were laughing all the way to the bank!

When *moi*'s favorite tunes, "I Love the Nightlife" and "I Will Survive," were played, I hit the dance floor joining party man **Nonoy Ybiernas** and **Resty V.**

As expected, the fun and dancing pack of Iloilo stayed on and on till RJ was literally exhausted from singing. When not dancing, the crowd had its fill of booze. The buffet table groaned with yummy hors d'oeuvres by the hotel's excellent chefs who were trained by the chef of chefs, **Maridel Uygongco**, wife of the owner of Amigo Hotel **Benedict Uygongco**, no less.

My home away from home in Iloilo is ideally located at the crossroads of the city's shopping and financial districts. Popular stores and malls are a leisurely walk away. The city museum, park and airport are a quick drive away.

Before leaving for Manille, *moi* was given a tour of the hotel by the hardworking Amigo Hotel Iloilo's popular first couple, Benedict and Maridel Uygongco. We swooned over the newly renovated and beautifully refurbished rooms, provided with all the amenities one expects.

The Nicholas Loney Suite, named after the British trader responsible for the flourishing sugar trade during the late 1800s to late 1930s, was awesome. The Muelle Loney suite, named after the "oldest trading port in Asia," is a three-division room with dining area, living room and a fab bedroom with a huge, huge king-sized bed, plus loads of other rooms that would definitely appeal to any business and leisure traveler.

Hey, check out Amigo Hotel, *palanggas*. It will be your home away from home.

ONE FOR THE MONEY, TWO FOR THE ROAD. Hot Jed Arricivita, director of Business Development, Marketing Division, as the hip-swinging Elvis Presley

OKAY, YOU'RE ON CLOSE UP. Cynma Chi, with Mae Arquero and Krishna Bonnevie

COZY-COZY. Hyacinth Diwa and Dennis Martines

WE LOVE RJ. Marievic Lee and Marivic Salazar with good looker Joen Padilla

THE PHANTOM, OUT OF THE OPERA. Bong Macalalad of Service Associate, Circles Event Cafe did a super job.

CYBERSMART Merce, area director of Human Resources-Philippines, as the hot chick Sampaguita

SMILE OF SUCCESS. Party super organizers Chito Miclat and Stella Arungayan

Beverly Aujero-Abordo and Maricor Hechanova-Talcon

THE SWINGING PACK. Cecile Abanilla-Gison, Jaki and Butch Alcantara, and Gary Gison

ROSE and Oskie Arenas

LET'S ROCK. Lawyer Joshua Alim, Limuel Celebria, Gina Ilabloro, Florence Ilibionada and Joy de Leon

DANCING QUEEN. Vivacious socialite Susan Wang

JETTING in from Cosmo Manille were gorgeous Eva Abesamis, beauteous Frannie Aguinaldo Jacinto, statuesque Jojo Zabarte, Odette Tan and a dancing friend.

POPULAR socialite Allana Montelibano joins Ramon Jacinto and his band.

AMIGO HOTEL'S ROYALTY. Top artist Mike Caling with the hotel's popular first couple, Maridel Padilla and her husband Benedict Uygongco

ILOILO'S ROCKING SOCIALITES. Tess Yaptangco with Helen Stummer, Marie Rose Cacho and Mrs. Grino

Revised 'Powers of Inner Mind' launched April 8

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

AT LAST it is off the press! The revised and expanded edition of my book, "Exploring the Powers of Your Inner Mind," will be launched on April 8, 6 p.m., at PowerBooks, Greenbelt 4, Makati City.

The first edition of the book was published by the Inner Mind Development Institute in 1992 and had 12 printings in 10 years. I decided to revise it last year, but I retained the foreword to the first edition written by National Artist for Music Dr. Lucrecia "King" R. Kasilag.

In her foreword, King Kasilag said the book was a "brilliant exposé and comprehensive consolidation of his vast personal explorations of the human mind and written in his usual straightforward, logical, lucid and precise style. It is replete with valid and authoritative quotations from extremely scientific sources and credible testimonials, with vivid examples of dramatic happenings and occurrences drawn from his more than 20 years of critical observation and involvement with psychic phenomena and parapsychology."

This is easily one of the most saleable books I've written. Both students and professionals liked it and recommended it to friends and relatives. One reason for its popularity is its practical contents written in an easy-to-understand language, as King Kasilag observed.

This newly revised and expanded edition, which is published by Anvil Publishing Corp., has only 50 percent of the contents of the first edition. The other half consists of completely new material based on recent research.

I have made the book more cohesive in terms of subject matter or theme, and thus much more useful and relevant to a greater number of readers.

I have, for instance, expanded the chapter on visualization and added new material about using mental imagery to heal ourselves. Two former students reported their successful healing of severe lower back pain and myoma (a benign tumor of muscle) using the visualization techniques taught in the courses I conduct.

New chapters were added showing how visualization can help one attain his goals and even excel in sports.

Business executives, entrepreneurs and other decision-makers will be pleased to find useful topics on intuitive problem-solving and whole-brain management, including scientific proof of the strong connection between extra sensory perception (ESP) and profitability.

There are intriguing topics that may be found in the new chapter on "Unique Mind Power Applications," such as "How to Attract Good Luck," "How to Use Chants to Bring Money," "Astral Projection and Astral Sex," "Using Dreams to Solve Problems," etc.

The book answers some of the most common questions people ask about inner mind power, such as: Who discovered ESP? How can I control my Psi powers? Can hypnosis improve mental ability? Can a predicted event be avoided? Why does déjà vu happen? Is time travel possible?" and many more.

During the book launching on April 8, the following have confirmed their attendance. They will share their experiences in using the powers of their mind: Dr. Vicky Belo, the country's foremost beauty expert; Anthony Vivero, healer, writer, businessman and exorcist, on how he used visualization to heal his sinusitis; and Rannie Raymundo, popular singer and magician, who will talk on the Difference between Magic and Psychic Powers. He will also perform magic during the occasion.

As the publisher said: "This book is for anyone who wants to make better and more effective use of his or her awesome but largely untapped mental faculties."

> Half of the book's contents is from the first edition and the other half completely new material from recent research

Address letters to this column to Prince Plaza I, 106 Legazpi St., Legazpi Village, Makati City. Call 8107245 or 8926806 for information on seminars I conduct. E-mail jlicauco @edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://jlicauco.shorturl.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program 7-8 p.m. every Sunday

Versatile coco oil for hair and body

COCONUT oil for hair and body is now available in the Zen Zest store at Glorietta 3, Makati, and Zen Zest kiosks and outlets in leading shopping centers nationwide.

Recent data show coconut oil can do wonders on skin and hair, and even helps delay aging. A natural source of Vitamin E, it moisturizes and protects the skin and hair, replenishing the skin's natural oils. It also protects skin against infection, promotes healing and gives skin a youthful and healthy appearance.

For massage, pure virgin coconut oil does not clog pores and is easily absorbed by the skin.

As a natural hair conditioner, it makes hair grow faster, stronger and thicker. It conditions the scalp, protects dry hair and makes hair smooth and shiny.

At Zen Zest, 200 ml bottle sells for P180. Outlets are located at Shopwise Libis, Tutuban Center Mall, Shoe Mart North Edsa, SM North Edsa Annex, SM Megamall-B, SM Baguio, SM Pampanga, SM Bacoor, SM City Cebu, Robinson's Galleria, Robinsons Place Ermita, Robinsons Place Pioneer, Robinsons Bacolod and Robinsons Big R Cagayan de Oro, Ayala Center Cebu, Gaisano Mall Bacolod and Gaisano Mall Davao, Festival Mall, NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan and Pavilion Mall Laguna.

We can't help but Love'Mall!

Ayala Malls Grand Store of the Year Kamiseta

AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA • GREENBELT Store of the Year Folded & Hung

ALABANG TOWN CENTER Store of the Year CMG

AYALA CENTER CEBU Store of the Year Lacoste

Congratulations to the 7th Annual Ayala Malls Merchants Rewards 2004 winners. In recognition of their excellence in Visual Merchandising, Marketing and Store Operations, an Awards Night will be held on April 5, 6:30 pm at the Greenbelt 3 Park. A Merchants Forum will be held on April 5, 8am to 12nn at the Expo Exchange Greenbelt.

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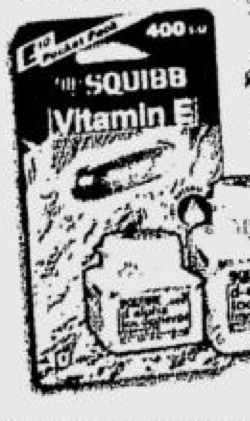
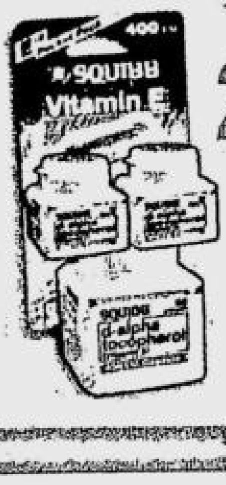


10 capsules FREE with every 30-capsule pack.



20 capsules FREE with every 50-capsule pack.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No 0341 S 2005